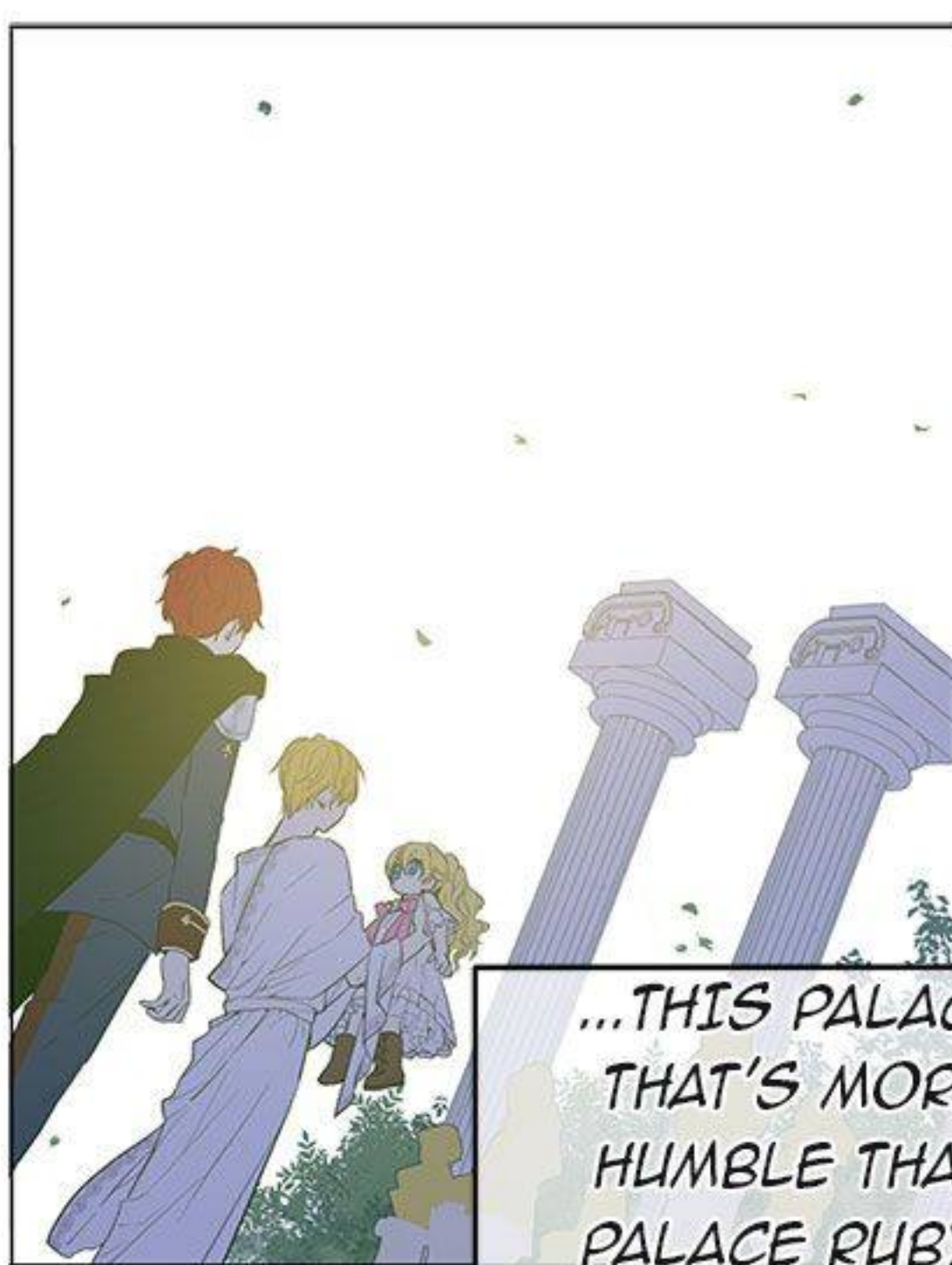


Whoosh

"MY PALACE,"
HE SAYS?

THEN COULD
THAT MEAN...



...THIS PALACE
THAT'S MORE
HUMBLE THAN
PALACE RUBY...

...IS THE ONE THE
EMPEROR USES?

9-YEAR-OLD
ATHANASIA
ENTERED THE
EMPEROR'S
PALACE BECAUSE
IT WAS THIS
CLOSE!

Shiver

glance

flinch



MAYBE
SHE
THOUGHT
IT WAS A
TOY.



gaaaaaaah
aaaaaaah
aaaaaaah

ARE YOU
GOING TO
KILL ME?

AM I DEAD FOR
TRESPASSING?

aaaaaaah

AM I GONNA DIE
BECAUSE I LEFT BITE
MARKS ON YOUR
ANGEL STATUE???

aaaaaaah

SHE MUST
HAVE
WANDERED
OFF DURING
PLAY TIME.

FELIX.

?!

toss



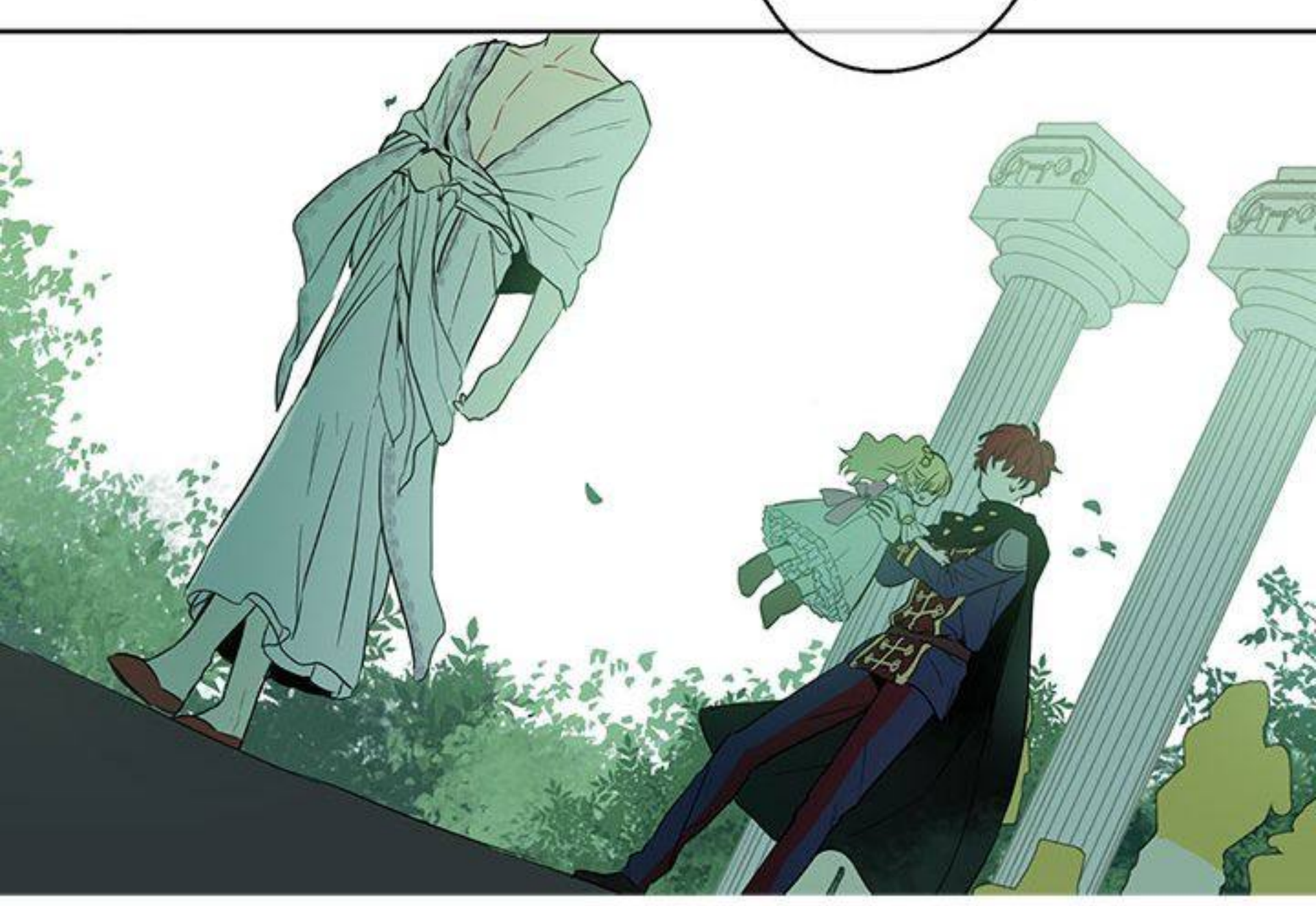


CARRY
HER.



huh?

I SHOULD
HAVE SOME
TEA WITH
MY GUEST.



Who Made Me a Princess

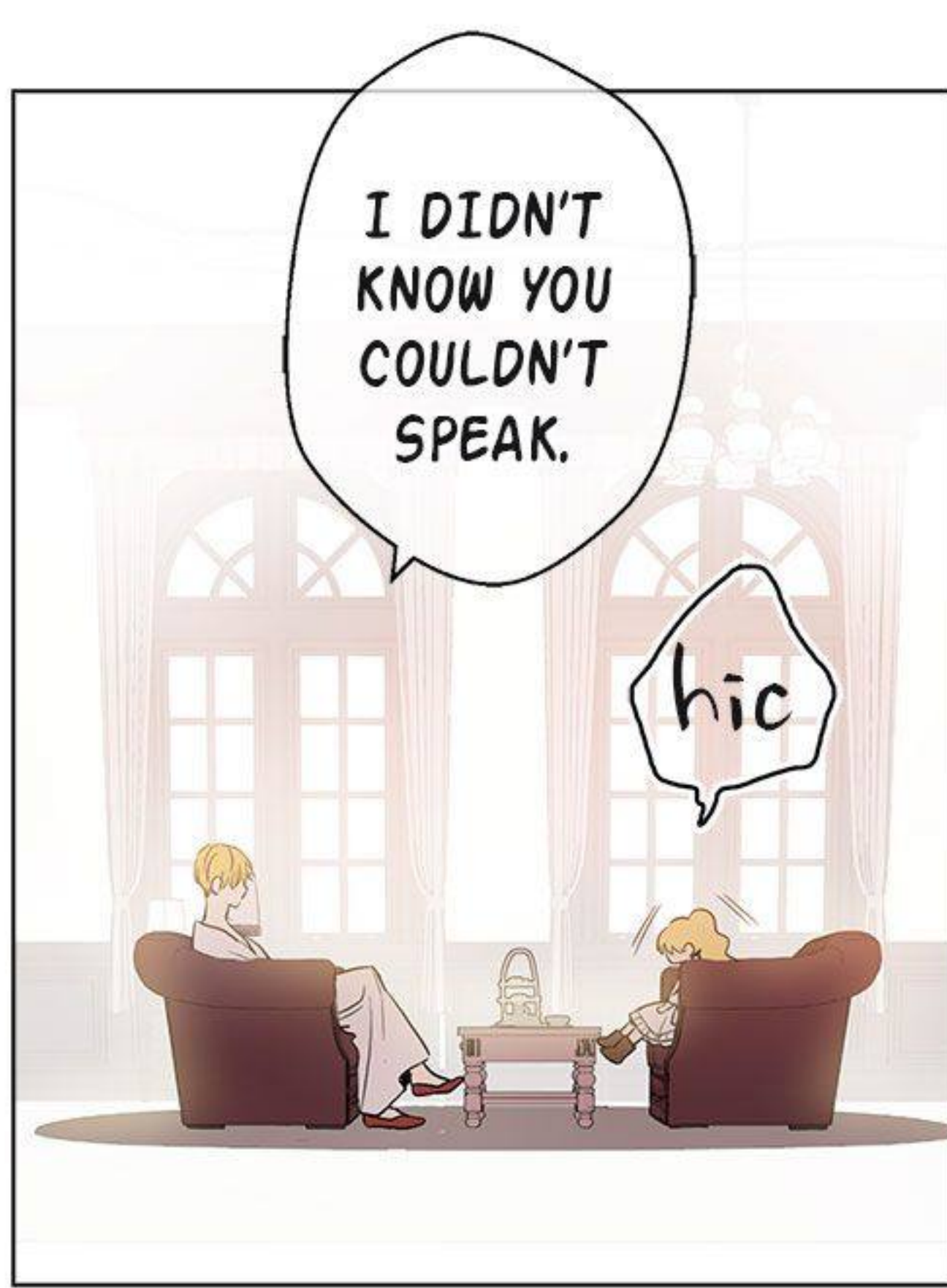
Comic **Spoon**
Original Novel **Plutus**

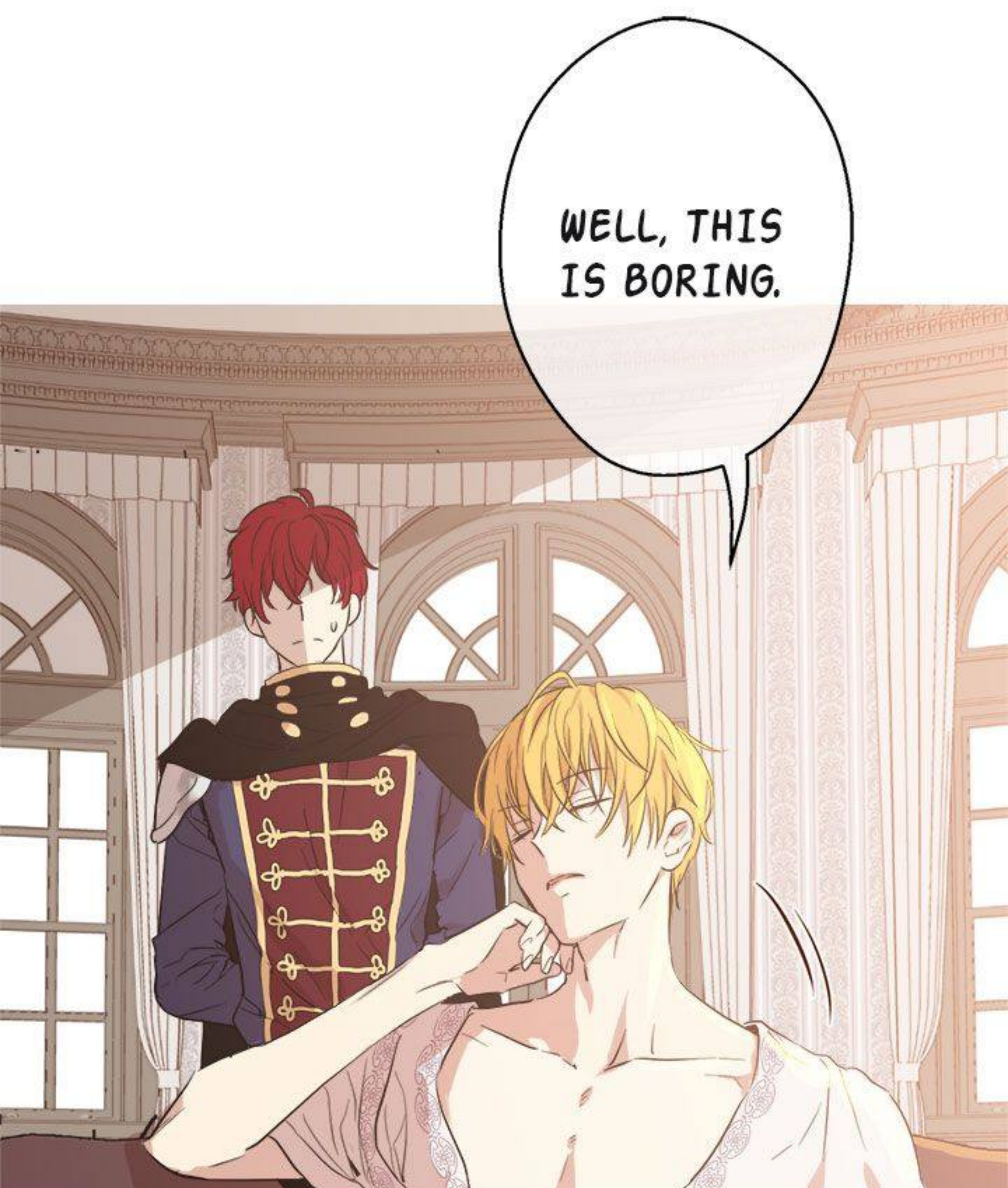
7





WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?







WHY DID YOU
STAY SILENT
UNTIL NOW?



...

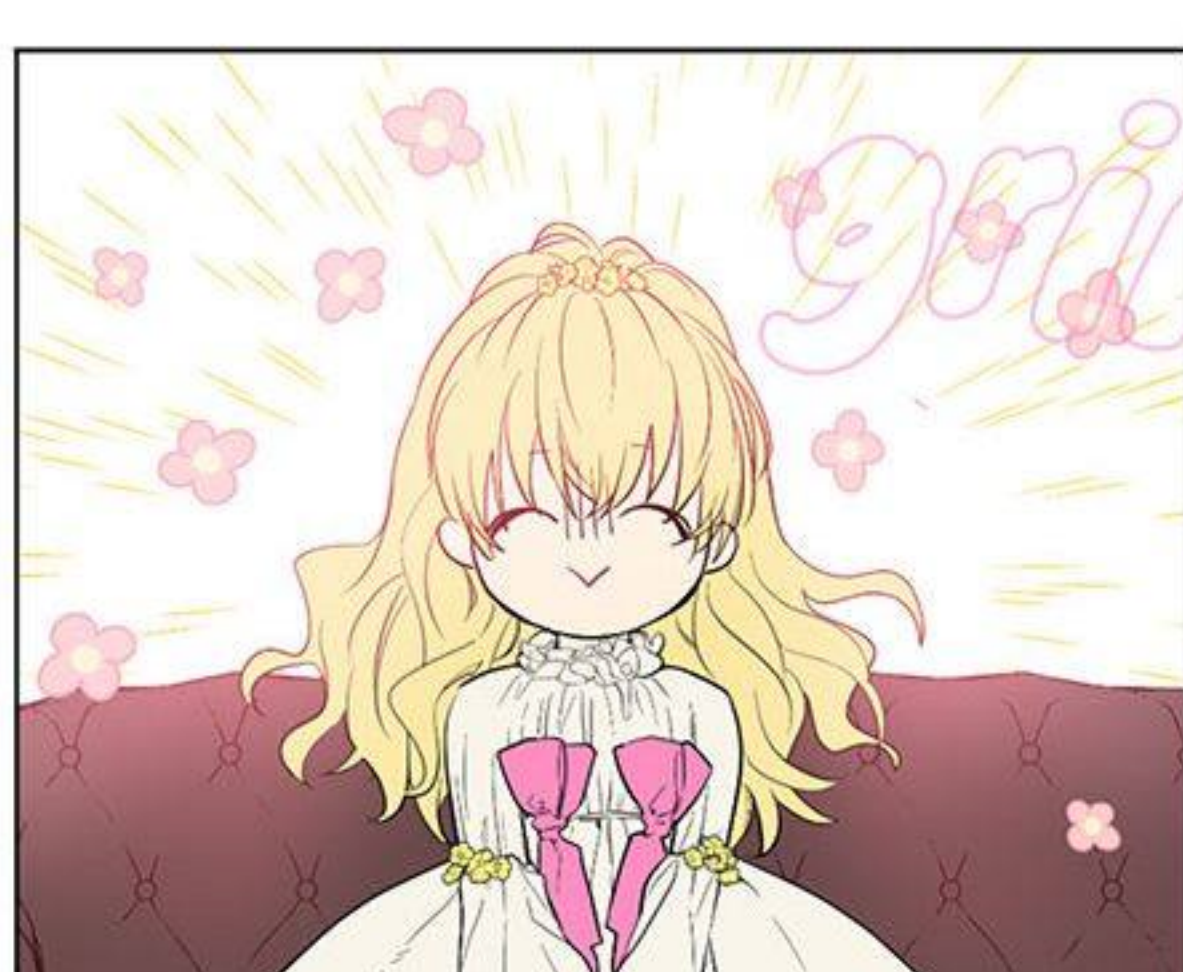
PARDON ME,
YOUR MAJESTY,
BUT LITTLE
GIRLS AROUND
THE PRINCESS'
AGE ARE KNOWN
TO BE VERY SHY.



IS
THAT
SO?

Y, YEAH
YOU JERK!
KIDS CAN
BE A BIT
SHY!

EVEN A
GROWN UP
WOULD FALL
SILENT IN
FRONT OF
YOU...!



YES, YES
WHATEVER YOU
SAY. JUST LET
ME GO.





FELIX.

YES, YOUR
MAJESTY?

LEAVE US.





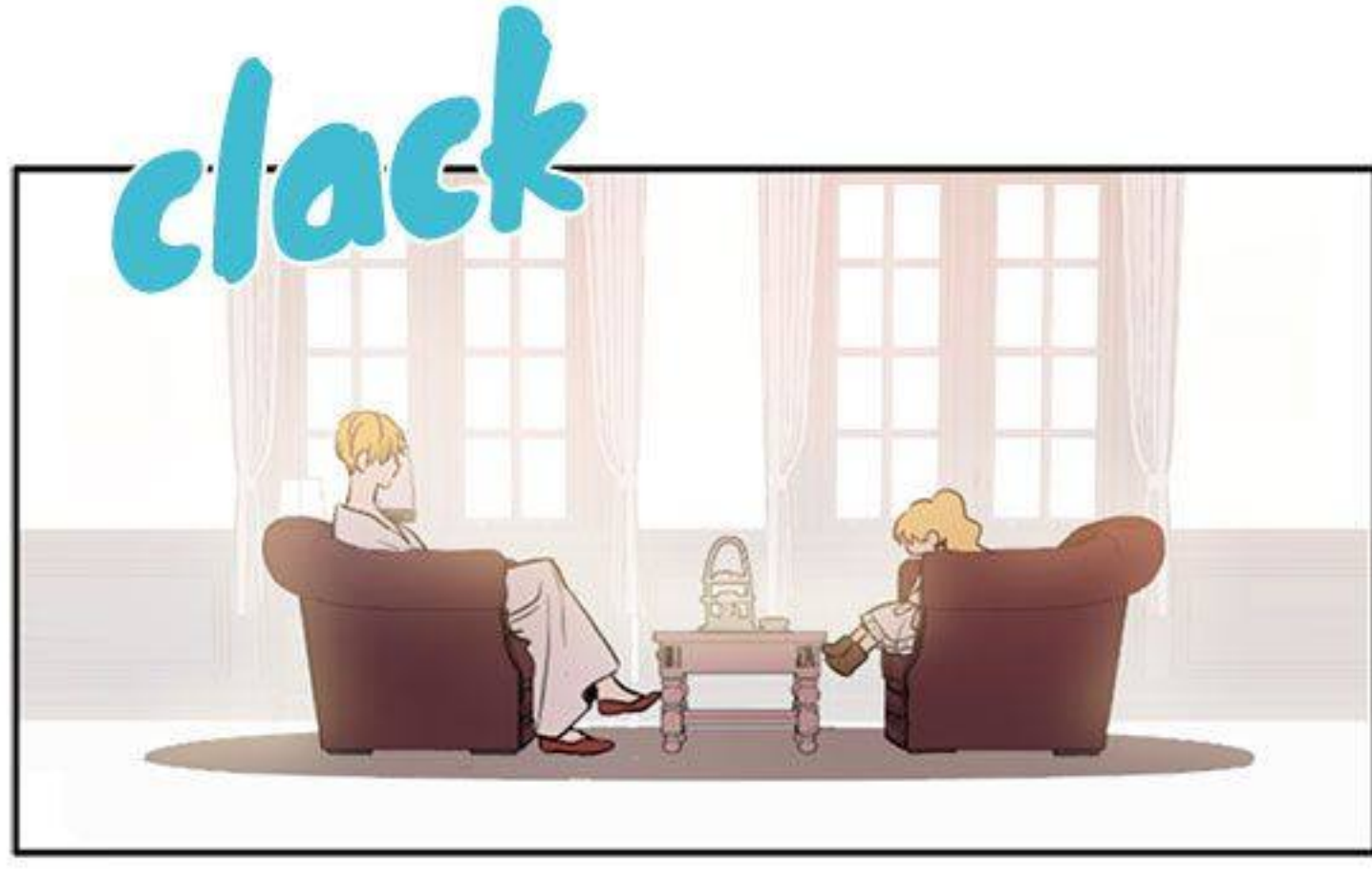
Huh?!



D, DON'T GO!
MISTER..!



glance



clack

ATHY, IS
IT? MUST
BE A PET
NAME.

!!

ATHANASIA.





WHAT A NAME.



AH,

DO YOU
KNOW THE
MEANING
OF THAT
NAME?

THIS IS BAD.



clench



PLAYING
INNOCENT

tilt

MY NAME, THE NAME
OF THE "KING."

Atthanasia

TO DARE
GIVE HER
OWN CHILD
SUCH NAME,

AND A GIRL
AT THAT.

SHE WOULD
HAVE HAD HER
LIMBS RIPPED
OFF IF SHE
HAD SURVIVED
THE LABOR.

SOMETHING THAT
EVEN CLAUDE,
THE EMPEROR,
COULDN'T RECEIVE.



OBELIAN EMPERORS ARE
GRANTED NAMES THAT MEAN
ETERNITY OR IMMORTALITY.



THE NAMES ARE GIVEN
ONLY TO THE OFFICIAL
"FIRST HEIR TO THE
THRONE." THEREFORE,
CLAUDE, WHO WAS NOT
THE EMPRESS' SON...

...COULD TAKE THE
THRONE BY FORCE,
BY KILLING HIS
BROTHER,

BUT HE WOULD NEVER BE
GRANTED THE NAME OF
AN EMPEROR.

SO THERE IS A
GOOD CHANCE THAT
CLAUDE MAY FEEL
FRUSTRATED BY
MY NAME...



...AND, YOU KNOW,
MAYBE KILL ME.

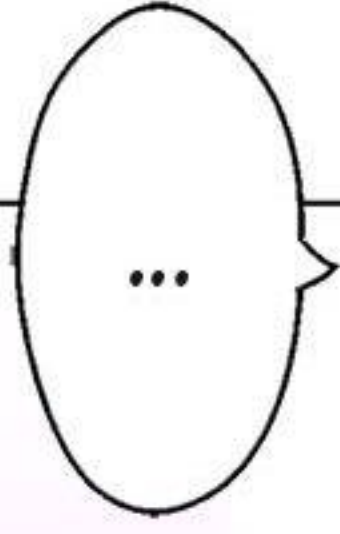
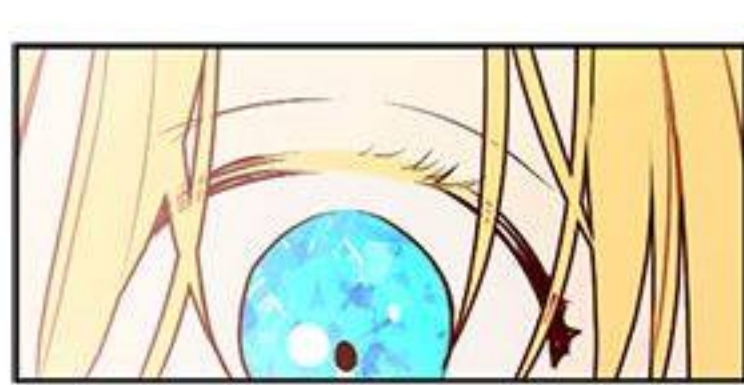
SEE, I'M
HARMLESS.

I HAVE ZERO
INTEREST IN
THE THRONE.

MY ULTIMATE GOAL
IS TO LIVE A
PEACEFUL LIFE AND
DIE A QUIET DEATH.

I MAY HAVE A
FANCY NAME BUT
I'M NOTHING BUT
A 5-YEAR-OLD
GLUTTON...

WHY ARE
YOU JUST
SITTING
THERE?
GO AHEAD
AND EAT.



I ORDERED
THEM TO
BRING OUT
SOMETHING
KIDS WOULD
LIKE.



IF YOU DON'T
EAT I WILL
HAVE NO CHOICE
BUT TO PUNISH
THE COOK.

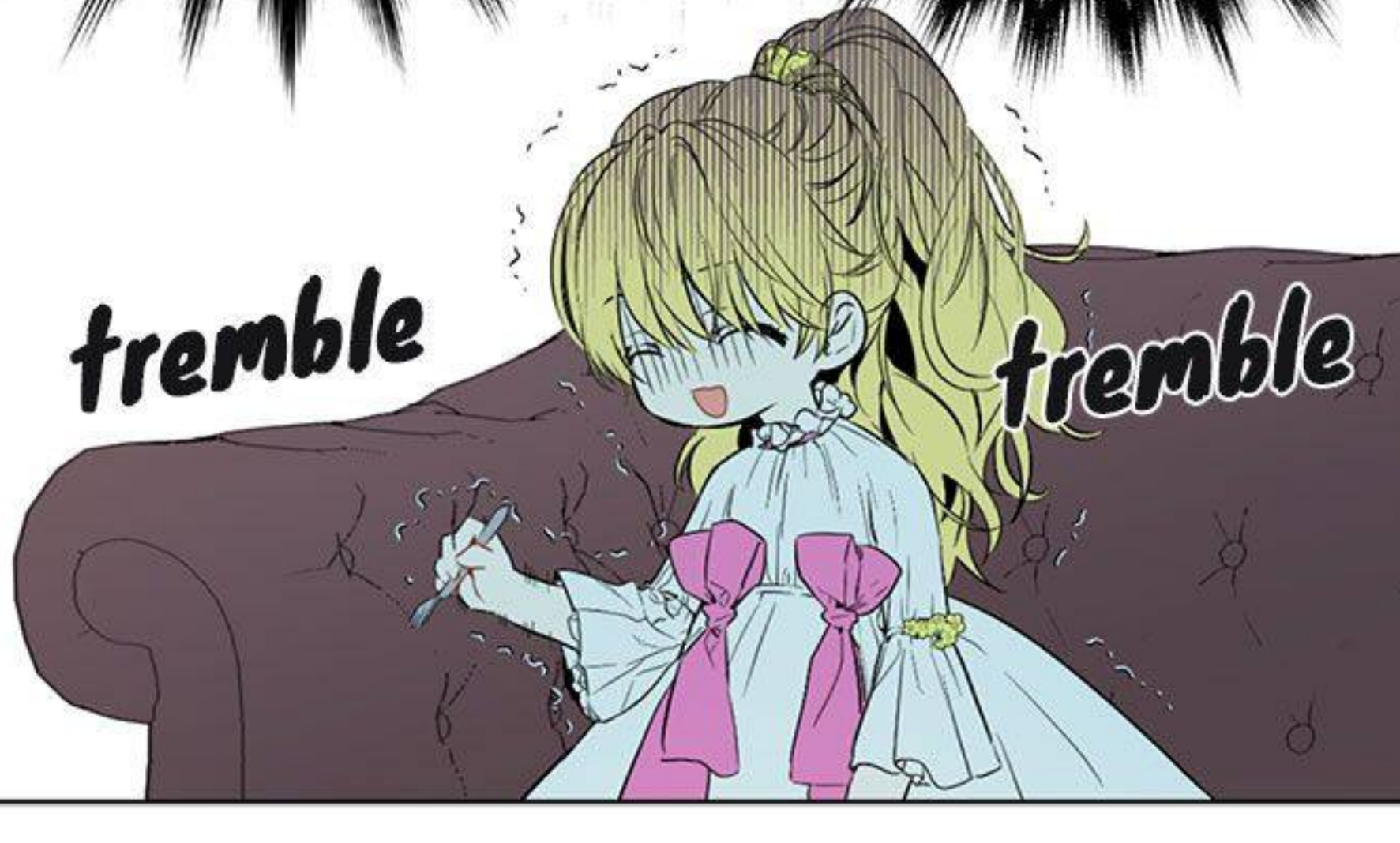
THANK
YOU FOR
THE FOOD!

HE'S
THREATENING
ME!

THIS JERK!!

tremble

tremble



I WON'T BE
ABLE TO
ENJOY THIS.





I DEFINITELY FEEL
A STOMACHACHE
COMING ON.

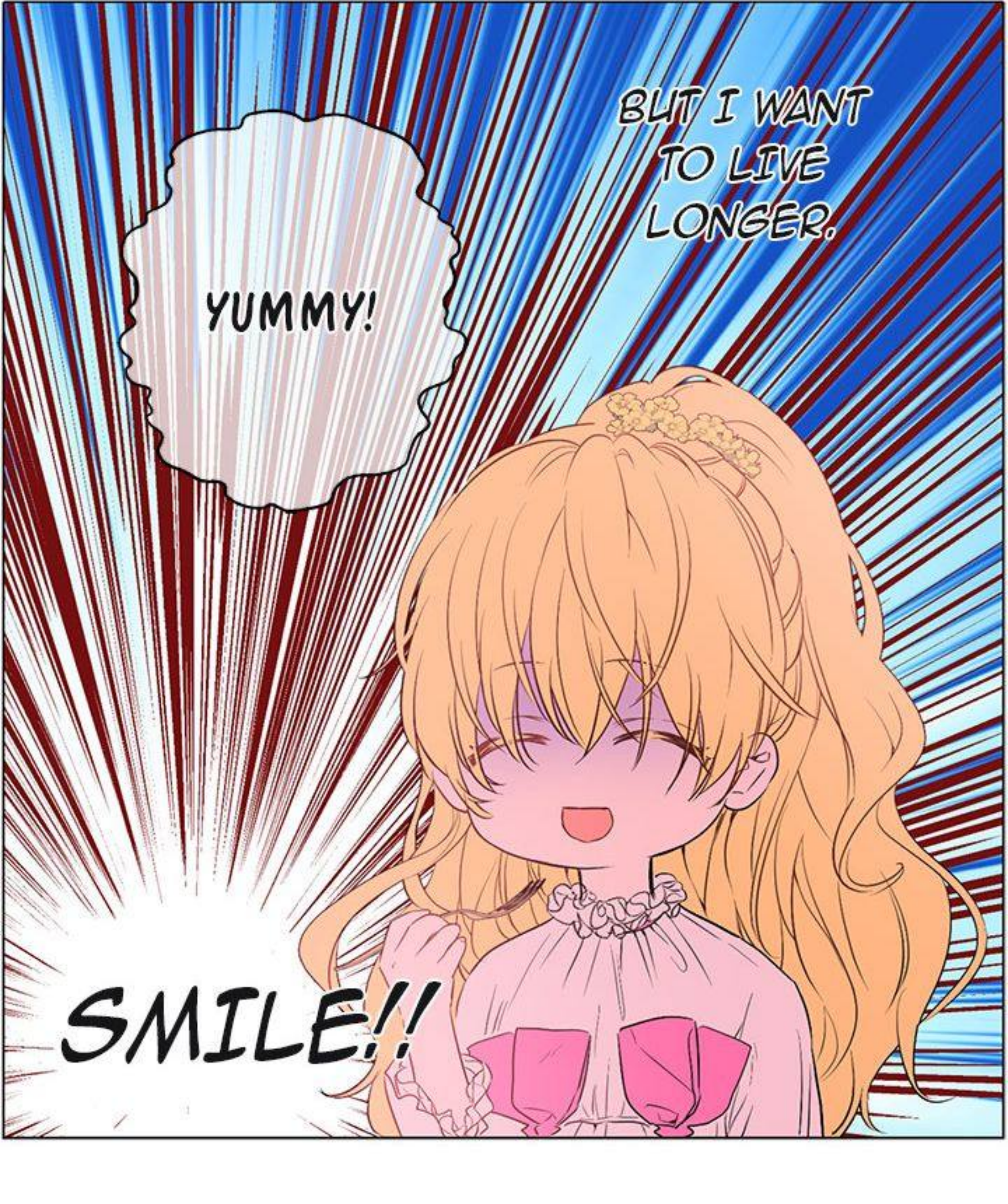
BUT IF I LEAVE
ANY LEFTOVERS HE
MIGHT GO ON A
KILLING SPREE.



I DON'T
KNOW HOW
HE'LL REACT!



MY FACE
MUST BE AS
WHITE AS A
SHEET.



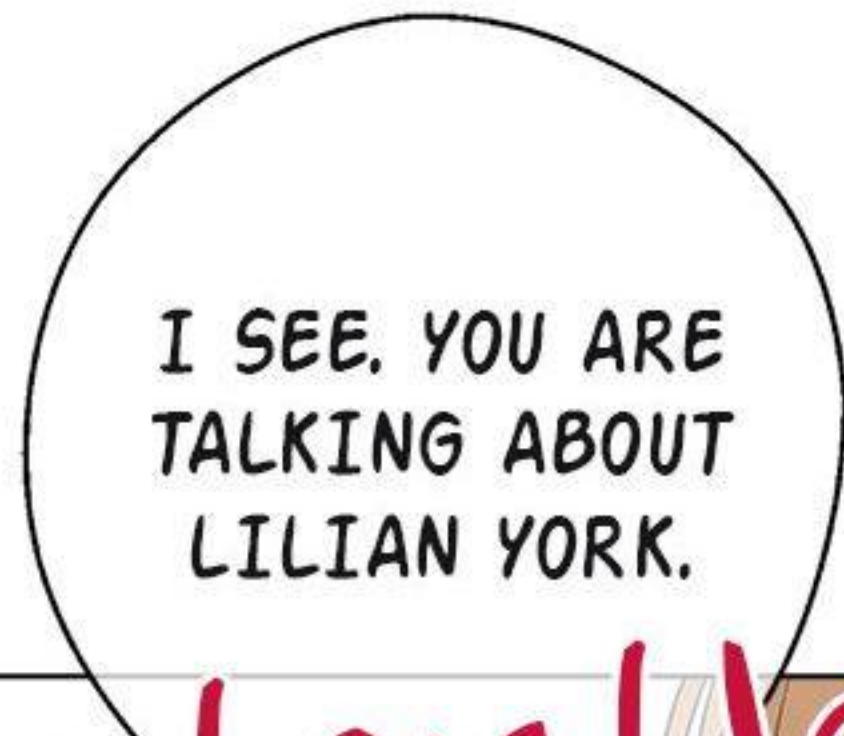
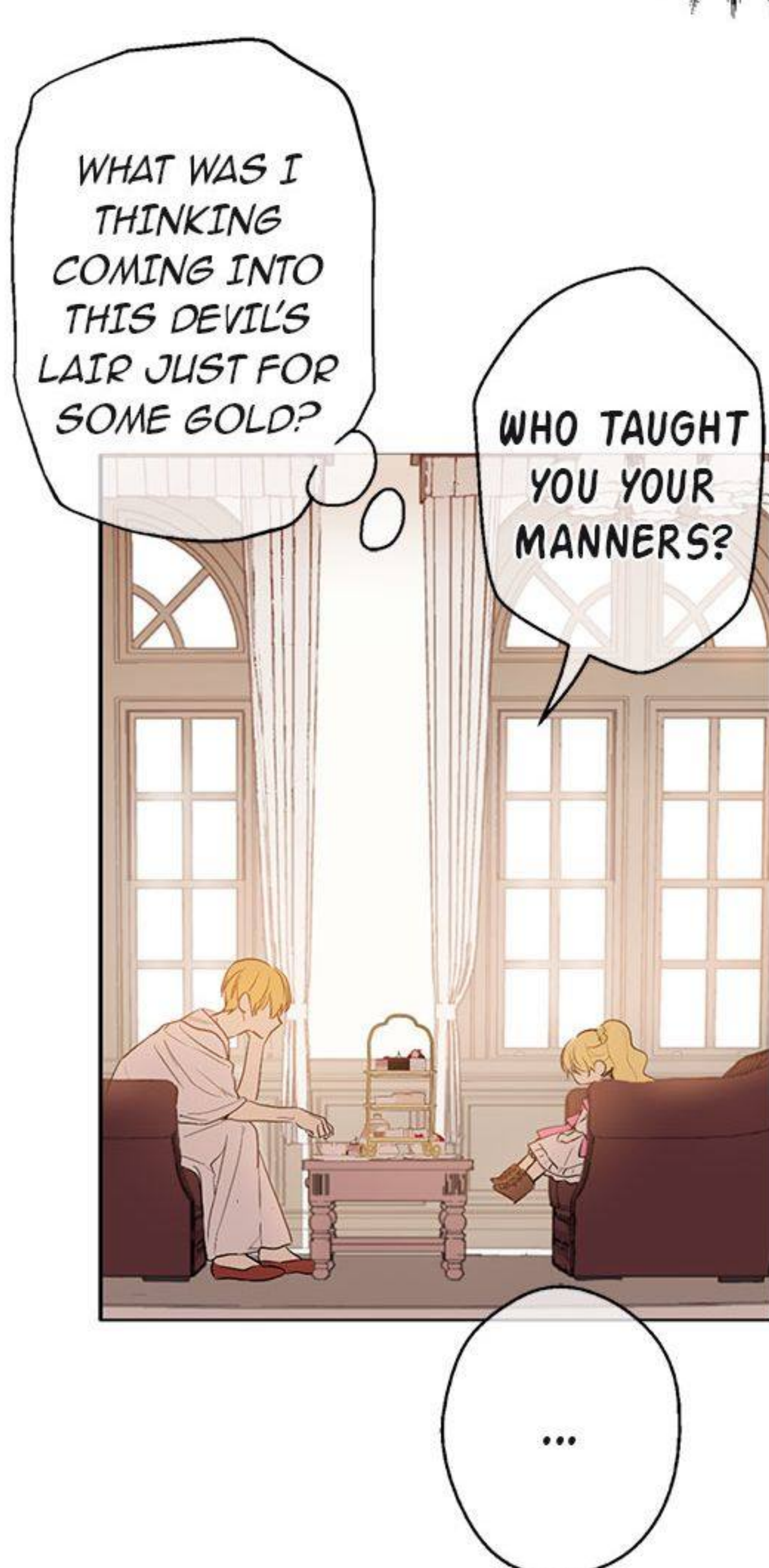
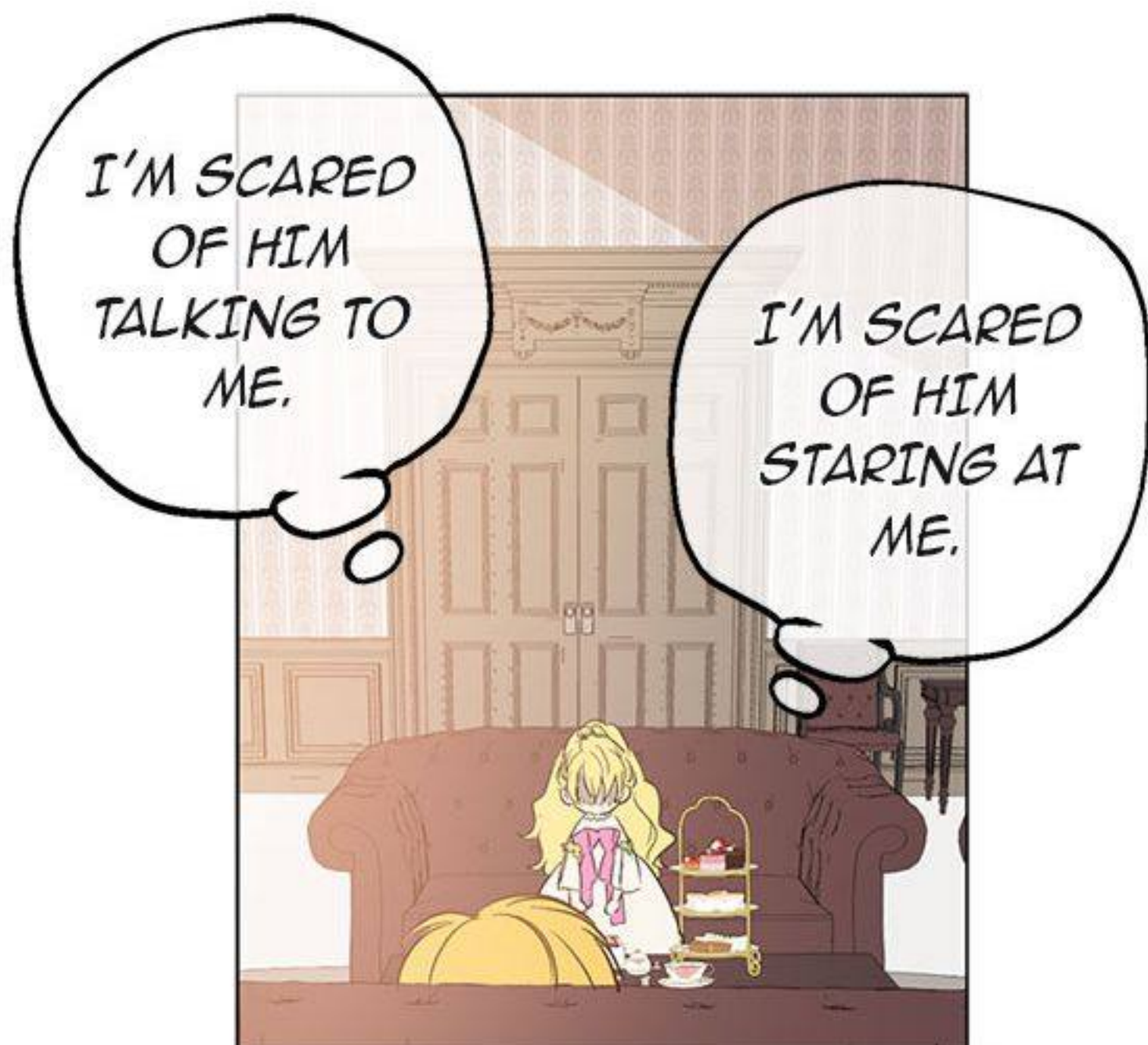
YUMMY!

BUT I WANT
TO LIVE
LONGER.

SMILE!!



HNG... I
MISS LILY.



startled



HOW DOES
HE KNOW HER
FULL NAME?



5 YEARS AGO,
SHE STEPPED
IN FRONT OF ME
REQUESTING THAT
SHE BE ALLOWED
TO TAKE CARE
OF YOU.

THAT LADY
MUST STILL
BE WITH
YOU.



HUH? LILY?
SHE DID
SUCH A
THING?

STEPPED IN
FRONT OF THIS
MONSTROUS
GUY FOR MY
SAKE?!

SHE ALSO
TOOK CHARGE
OF THE RUBY
PALACE.



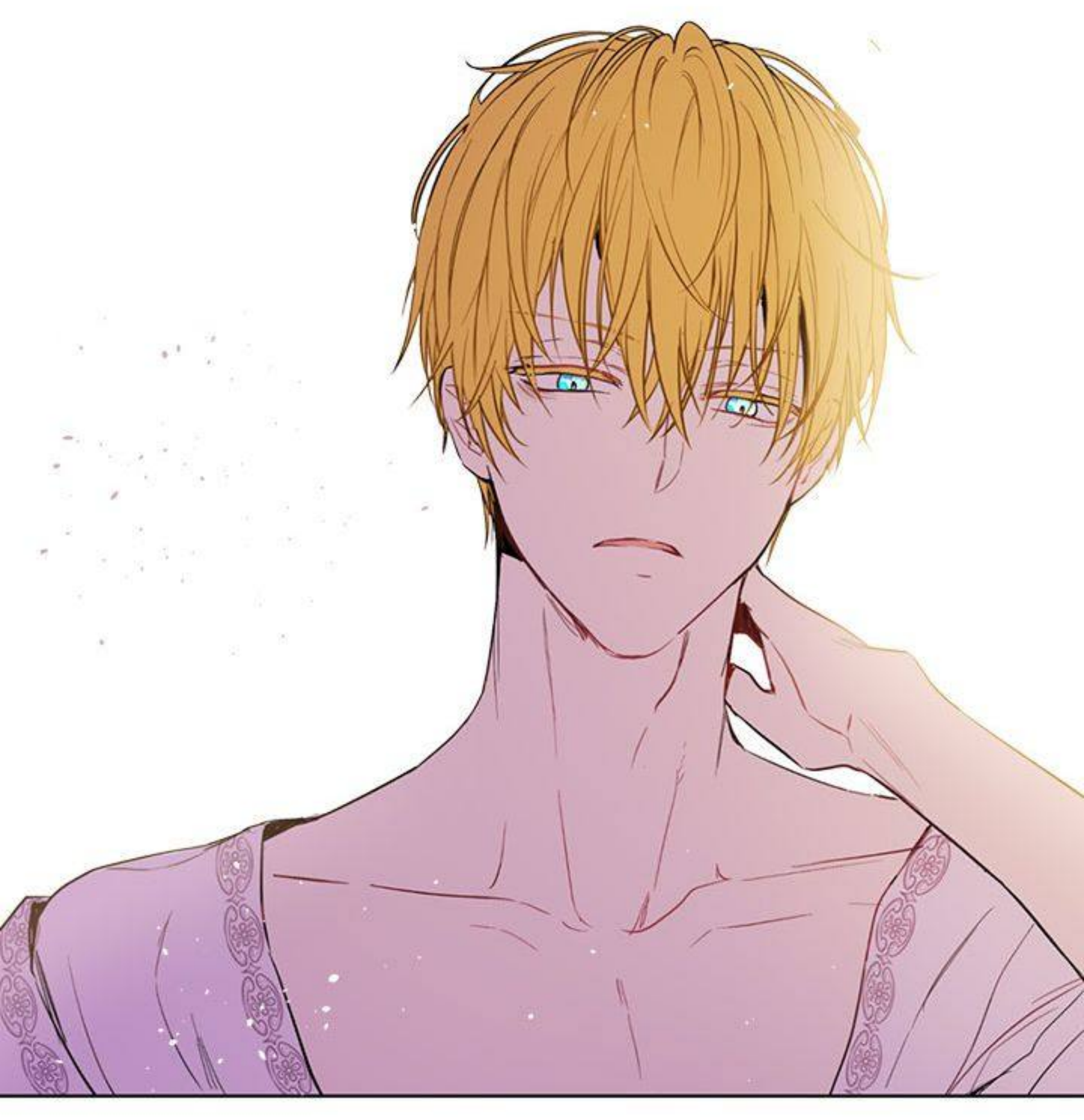
OH,
LILY...!



I'M SO MOVED!

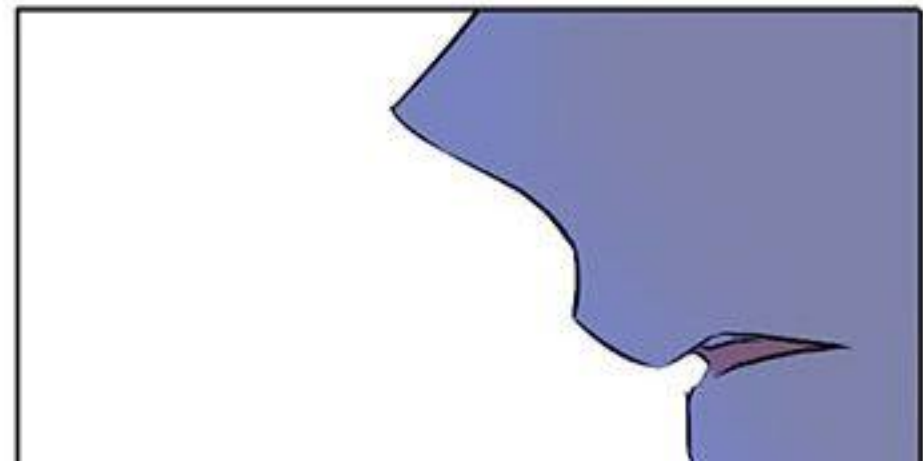
HOW
DARE
SHE.

THE ONLY TWO
PEOPLE WHO
SURVIVED AFTER
GETTING IN MY
WAY WERE YOUR
MOTHER AND
THAT WENCH.



...

munch
munch
munch

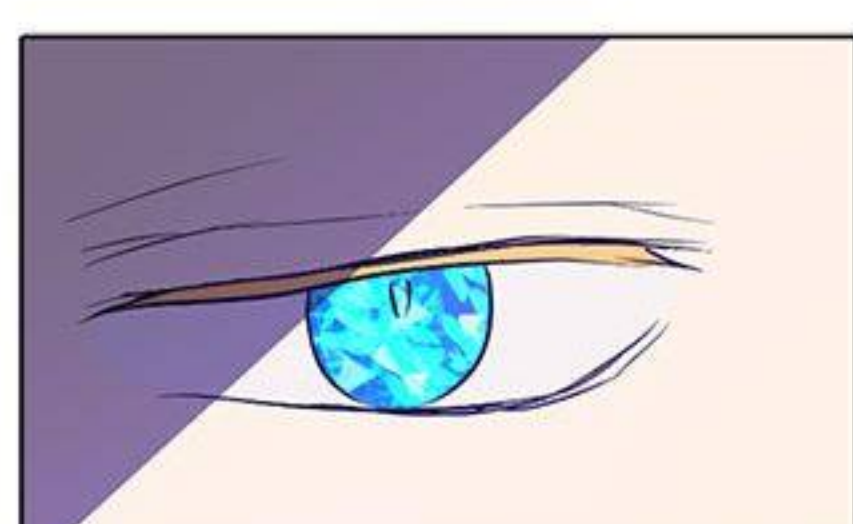


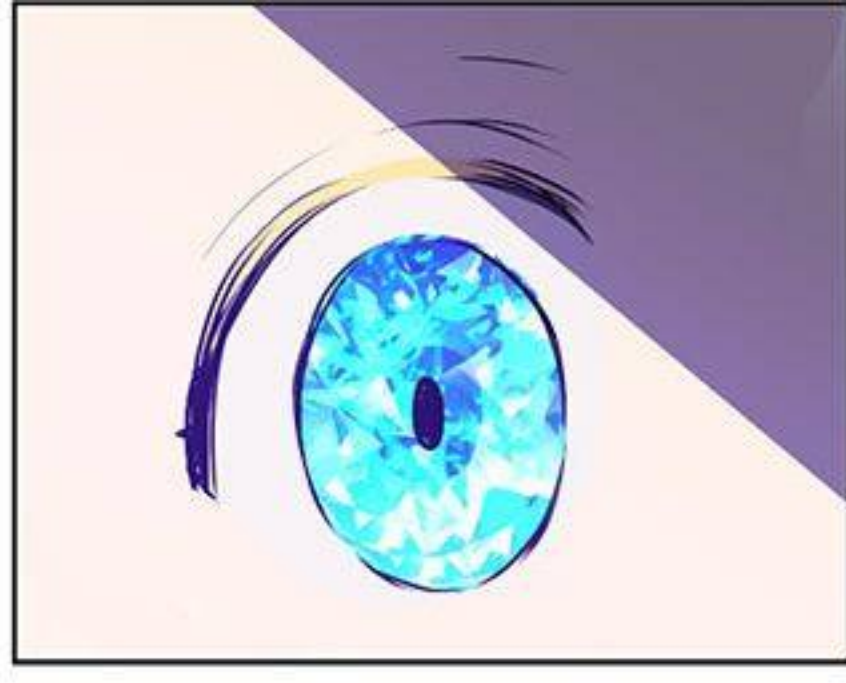
AS YOU SIT
THERE, ARE
YOU AWARE OF
WHO I AM?



OH.

THIS ISN'T
GOING WELL.





DON'T...



...TAKE YOUR
EYES OFF HIM.



I THOUGHT IT
WAS ODD.

WHY WOULD
HE BRING ME
HERE?

IT WAS
PROBABLY
ON A WHIM.

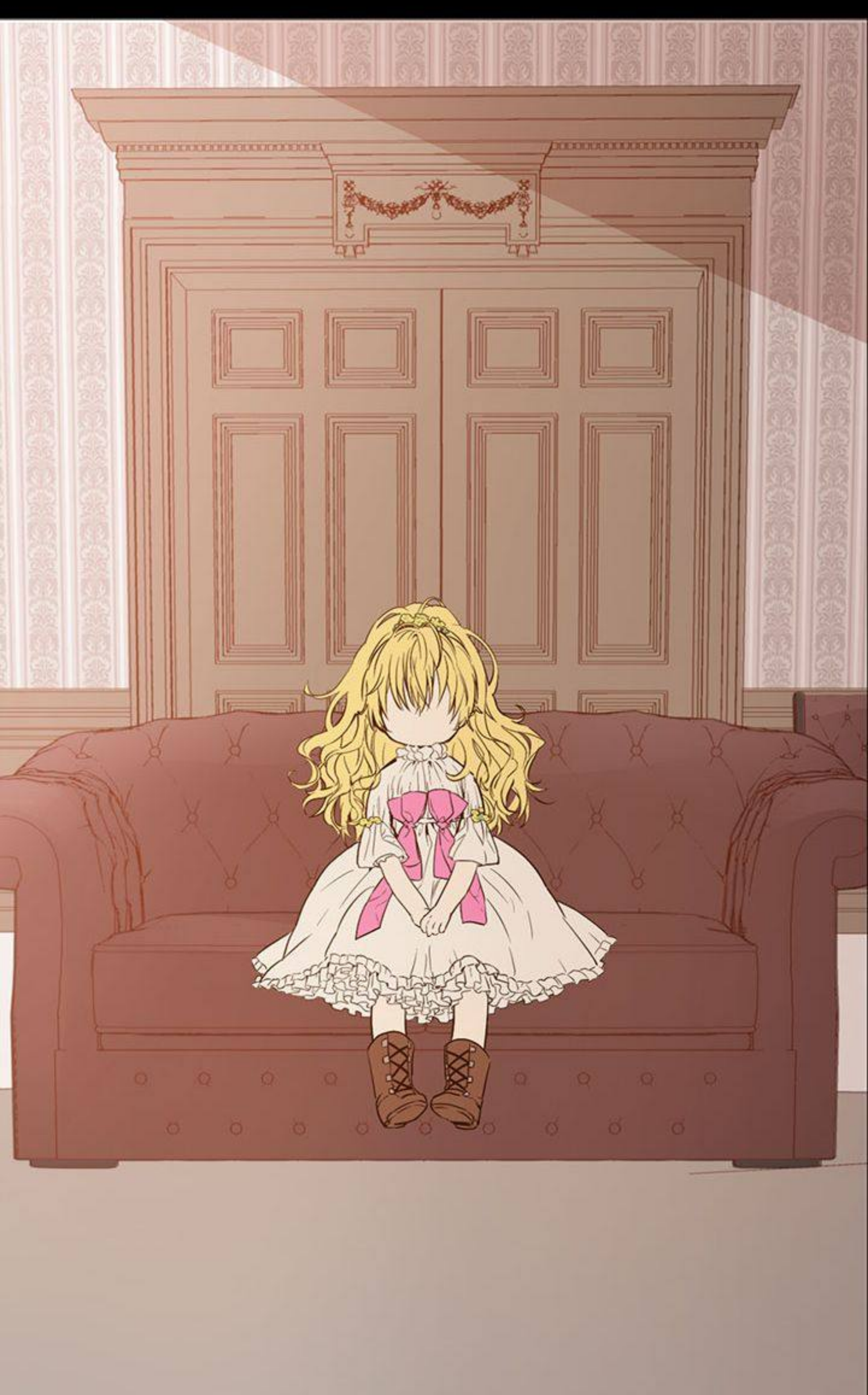
AN OPPORTUNITY
GIVEN AS A PRIZE
FOR DRAWING HIS
ATTENTION.



THIS IS A TEST TO DECIDE,



WHETHER TO LET ME
LIVE LONGER...



*...OR TO HAVE
ME KILLED.*

To Be Continued



MAYBE 9-YEAR-OLD
ATHANASIA WAS TESTED
BY CLAUDE AS WELL.



IT'S JUST NOT
DEPICTED IN
THE BOOK.

WHAT
SHOULD
I DO?

WHAT
CAN I
DO?



tap

tap

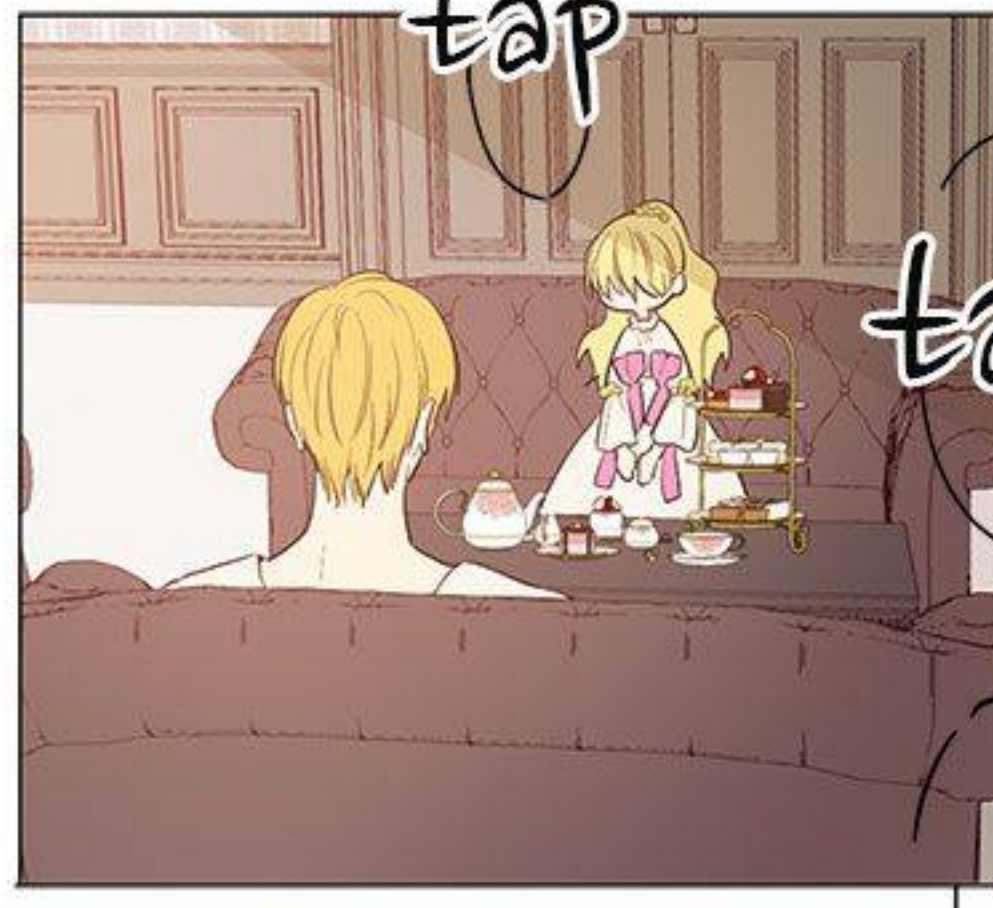
tap



tap

tap

tap



tap

halt



F,
FATHER?

uhf?

NOW YOU'VE
GONE AND
DONE IT.

OF ALL THE
THINGS I COULD
HAVE SAID,

gaaaaaahh

huuuuuuhh

Father?!

Father?!
FATHER?!!

LET IT BE KNOWN
THAT I'VE DUG MY
OWN GRAVE.

Father-
Father-

JUST ASK HIM TO
BEHEAD YOU, WHY
DON'T YOU?!

SUPREME AND
NOBLE MAJESTY,
THE EMPEROR OF
THE GREAT OBELIAN
EMPIRE.

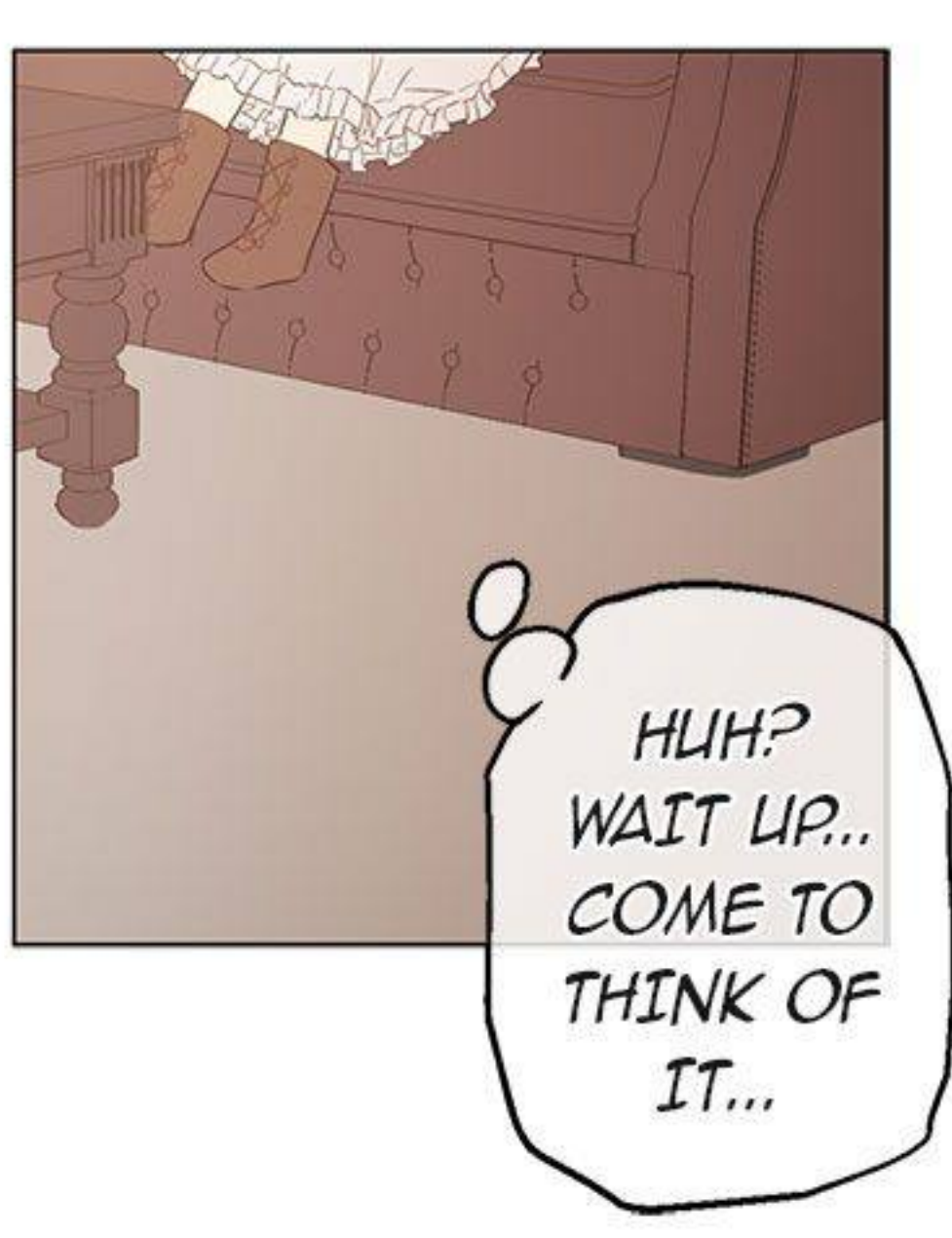


I SHOULD HAVE
JUST KISSED
HIS FEET...

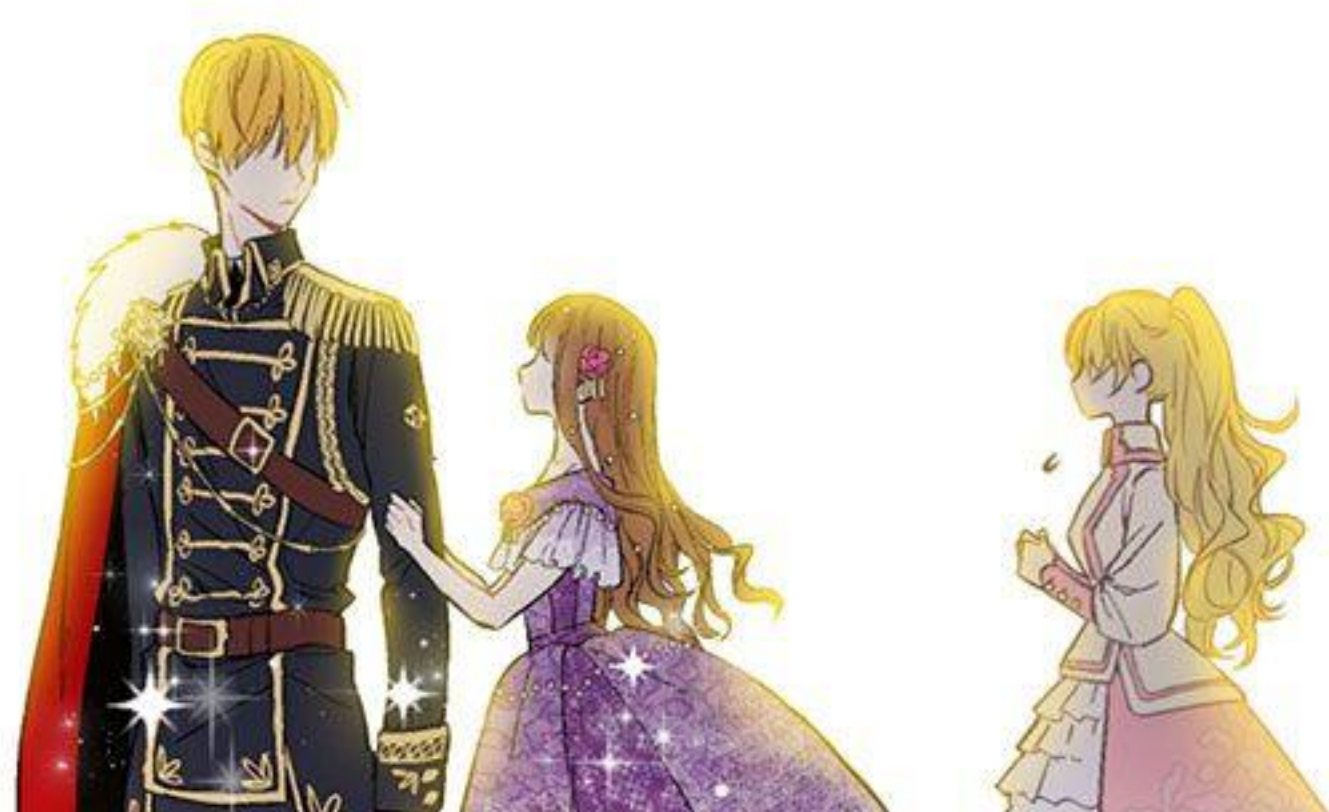




W, WHAT? DIDN'T
I JUST HAVE AN
EPIC FAIL?



CLAUDE
LIKED
JENNETTE,
RIGHT?



THEN...

IF THAT'S
THE CASE...



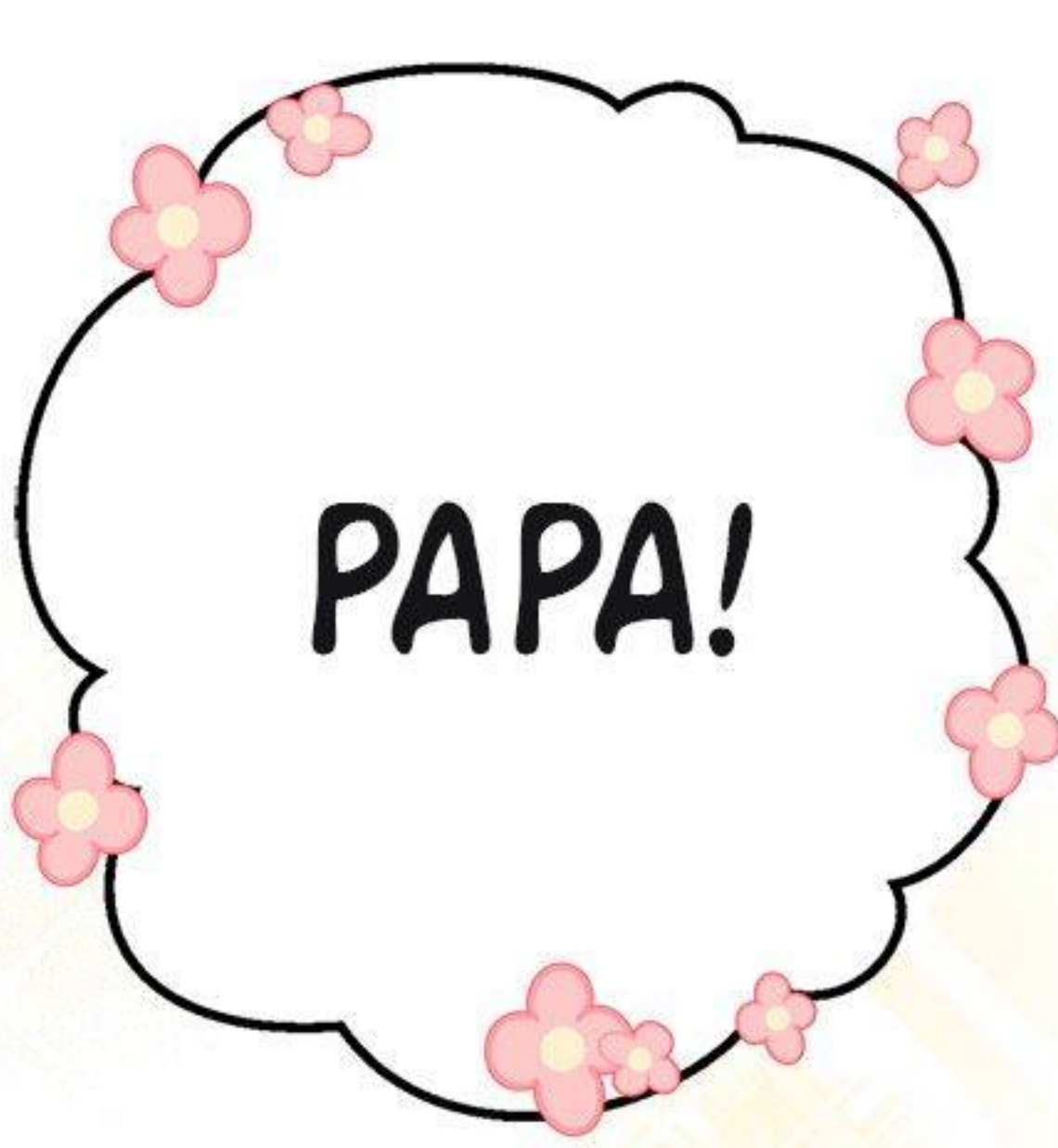


IF I'M JUST
DRAWING HIS
ATTENTION...





NOW, I HAVE NO
OTHER CHOICE....!!





*SOMEONE PLEASE TELL ME
I HAVEN'T JUST COME UP WITH
A NEW WAY TO BEG FOR DEATH!!*



Comic **Spoon**
Original Novel **Plutus**



*TO GET STRAIGHT TO
THE POINT, I SURVIVED.*



BUT THE RUBY
PALACE WAS
THROWN INTO
CHAOS...

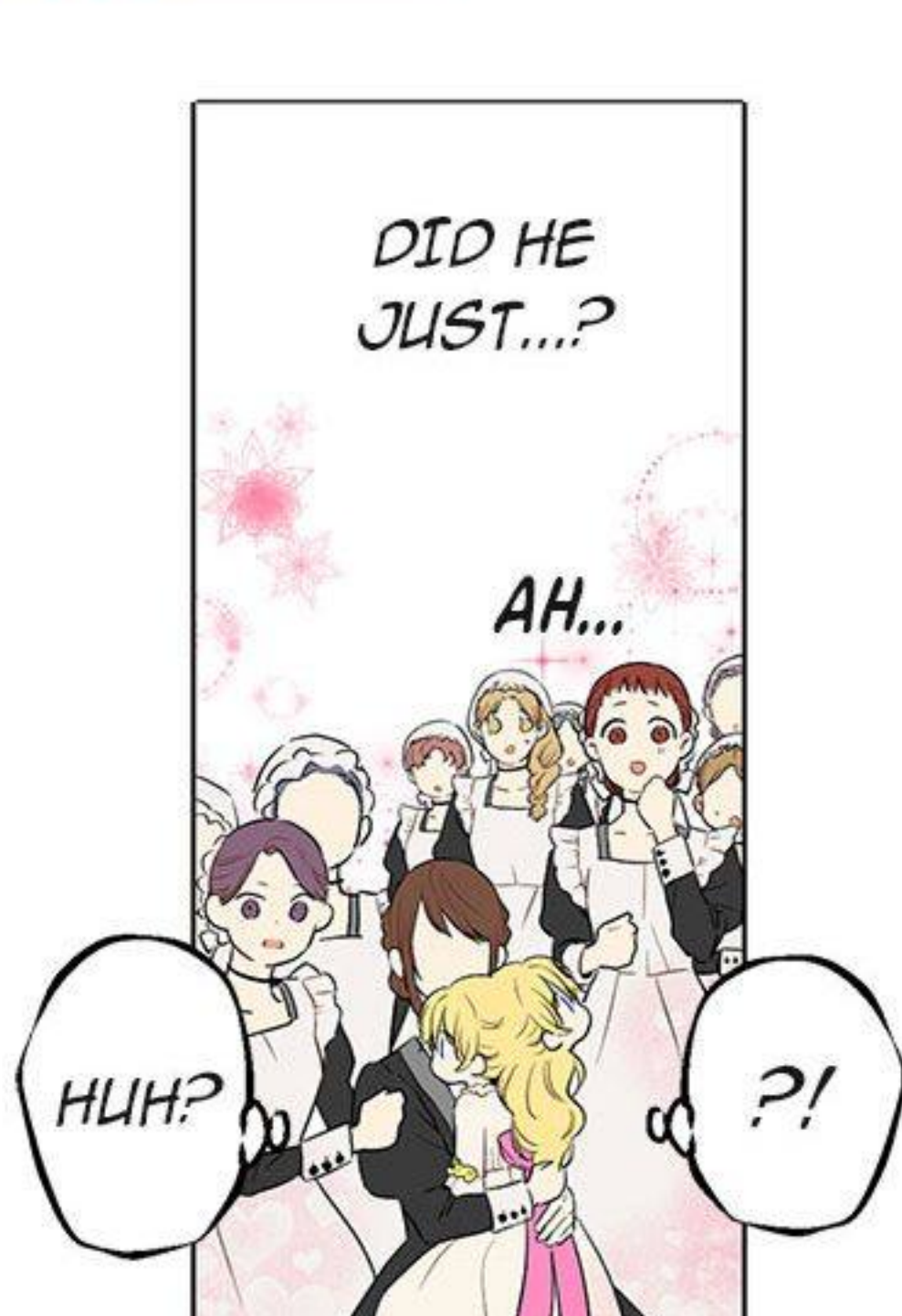
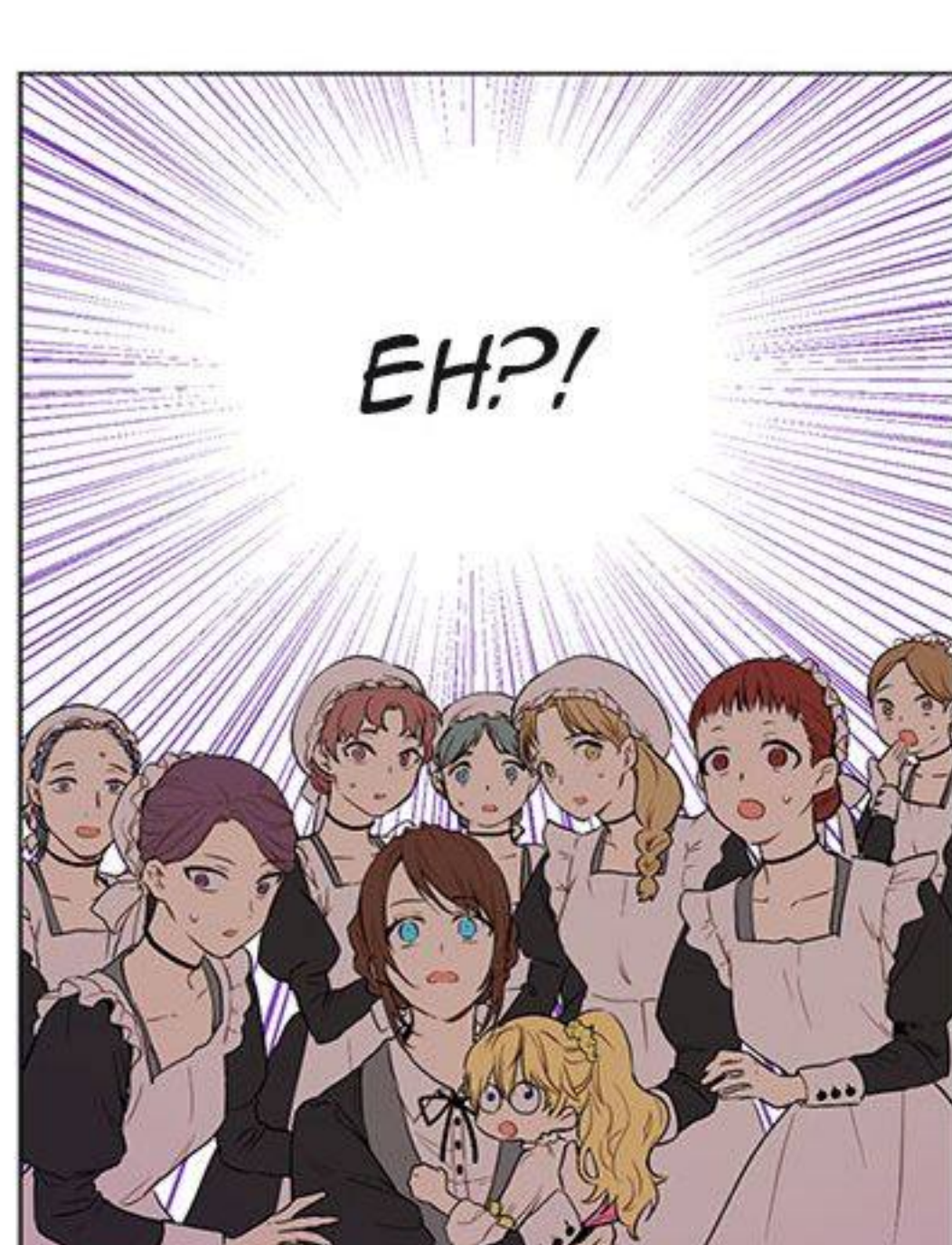
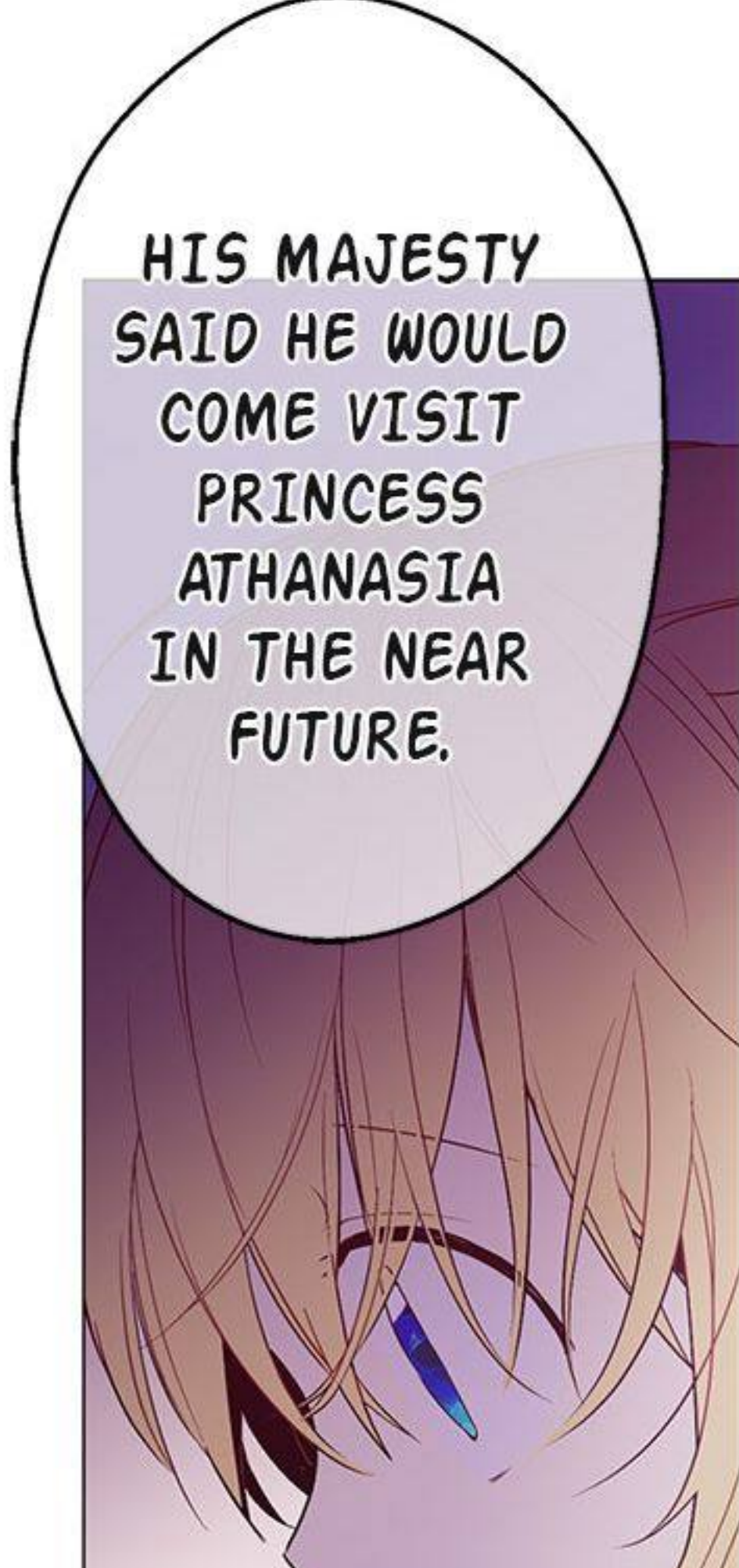
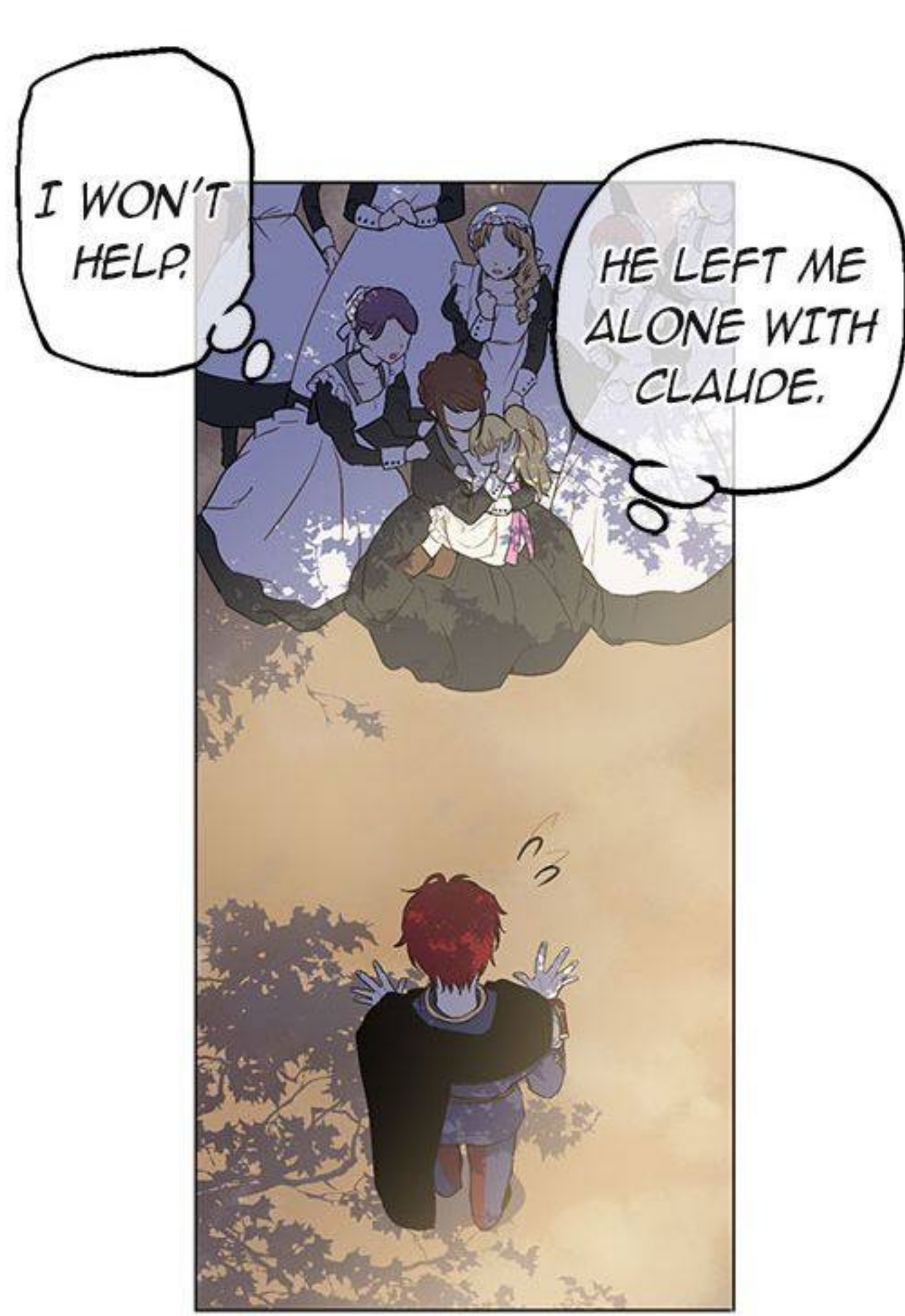
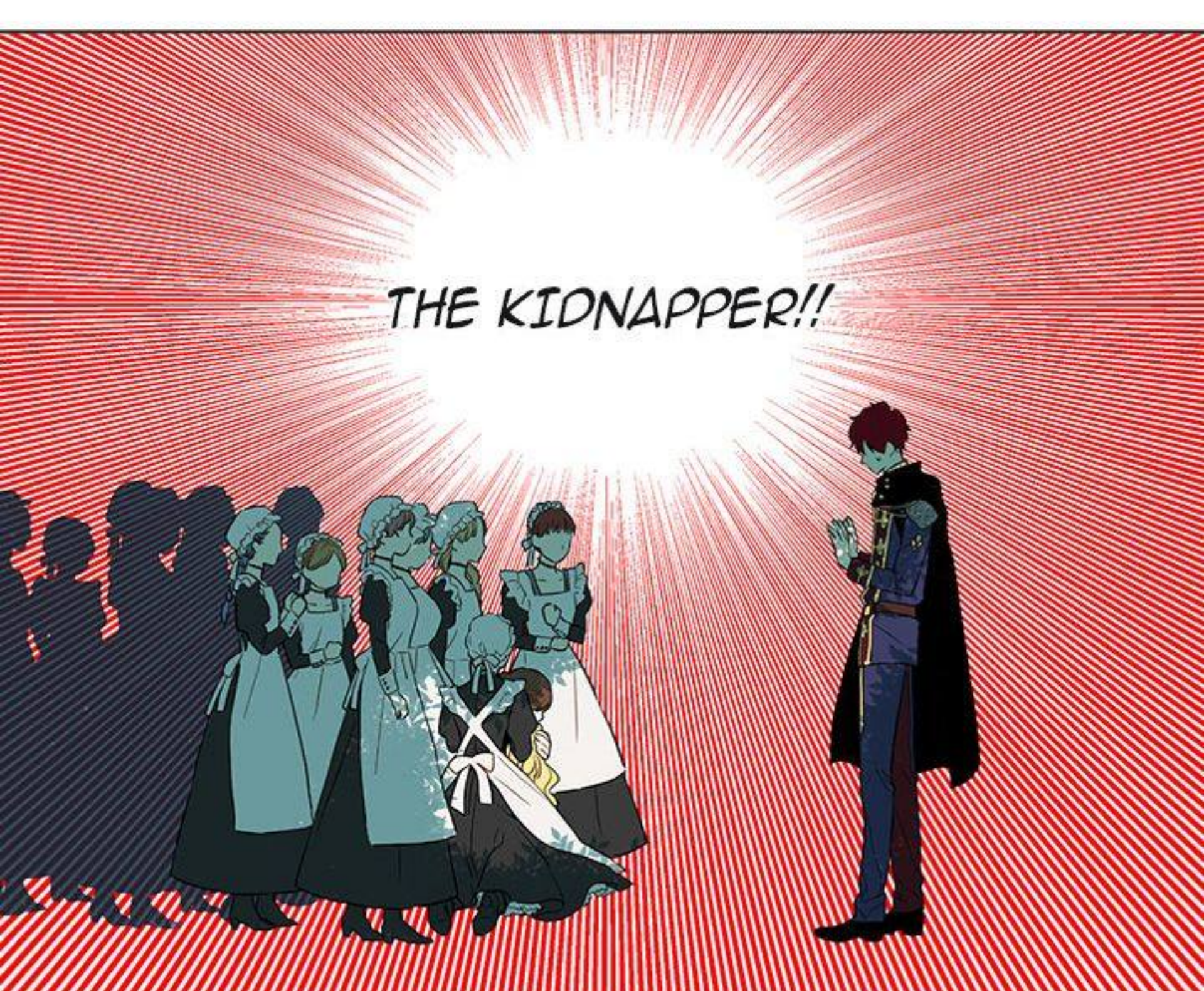


...SINCE I WASN'T
IN BED LIKE
I SHOULD HAVE
BEEN.



IMAGINE THEIR
SURPRISE WHEN
I RETURNED IN THE
ARMS OF THE
EMPEROR'S ROYAL
GUARD.





WHAT'S WITH

WHAT'S WITH
THIS RESPONSE?



HALF-SCARED
HALF-HAPPY

IS EVERYONE THIS
HAPPY TO RECEIVE
THE EMPEROR'S
ATTENTION?

WHAT WOULD
THAT DIRTBAG
CLAUDE WANT
WITH ME?

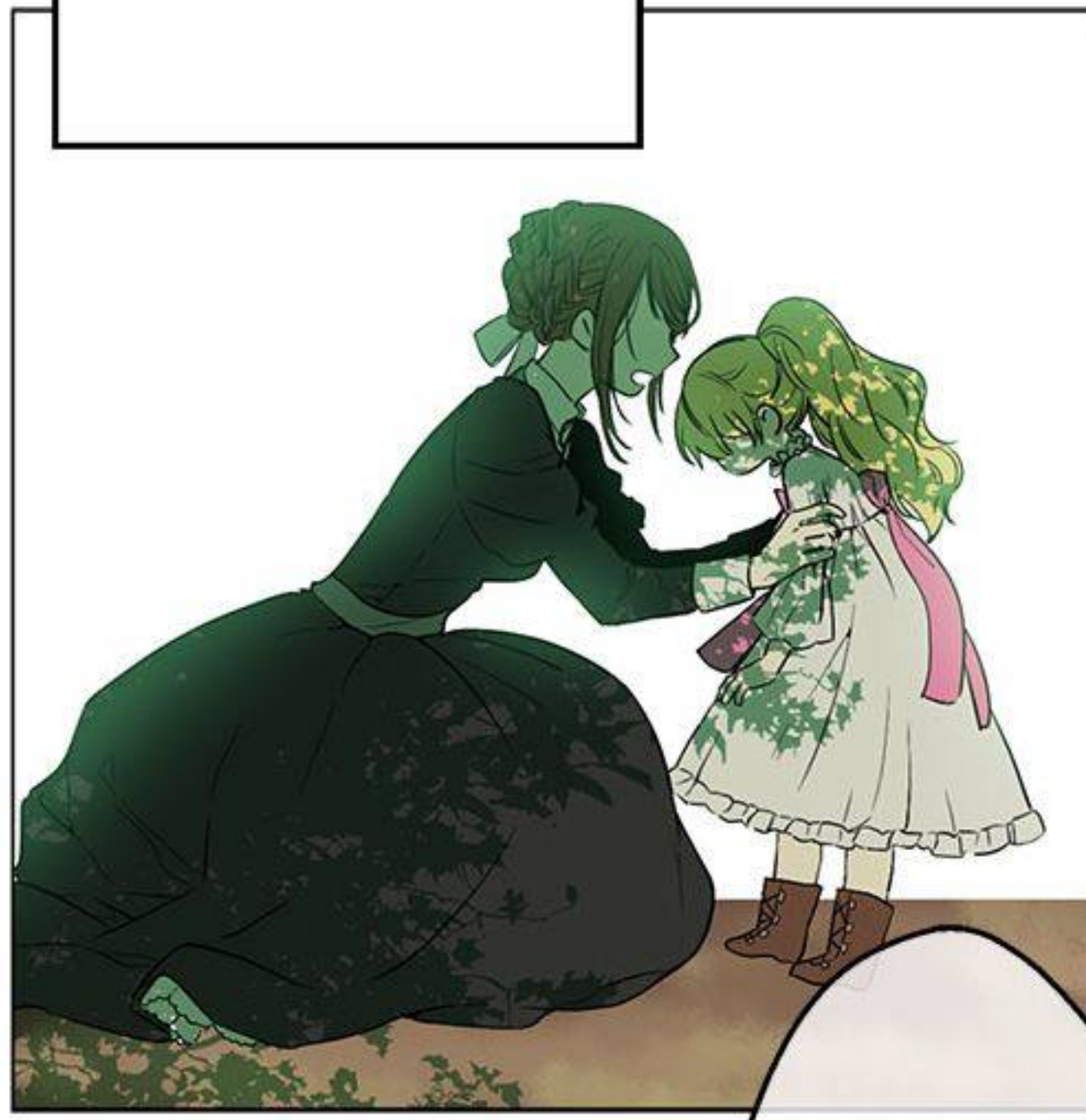


NO! NO!
WAAAAHH!!



BUT LIFE
NEVER
GOES AS I
PLANNED.

MY FAITH IS
SEALED IN
WHICHEVER WAY
THE EMPEROR
WANTS IT.



PRINCESS,
ARE YOU
HUR...



BLAACCH!

PRINCESS!

BUT FIRST, I SHOULD
EMPTY OUT MY STOMACH...



Plan A Failed

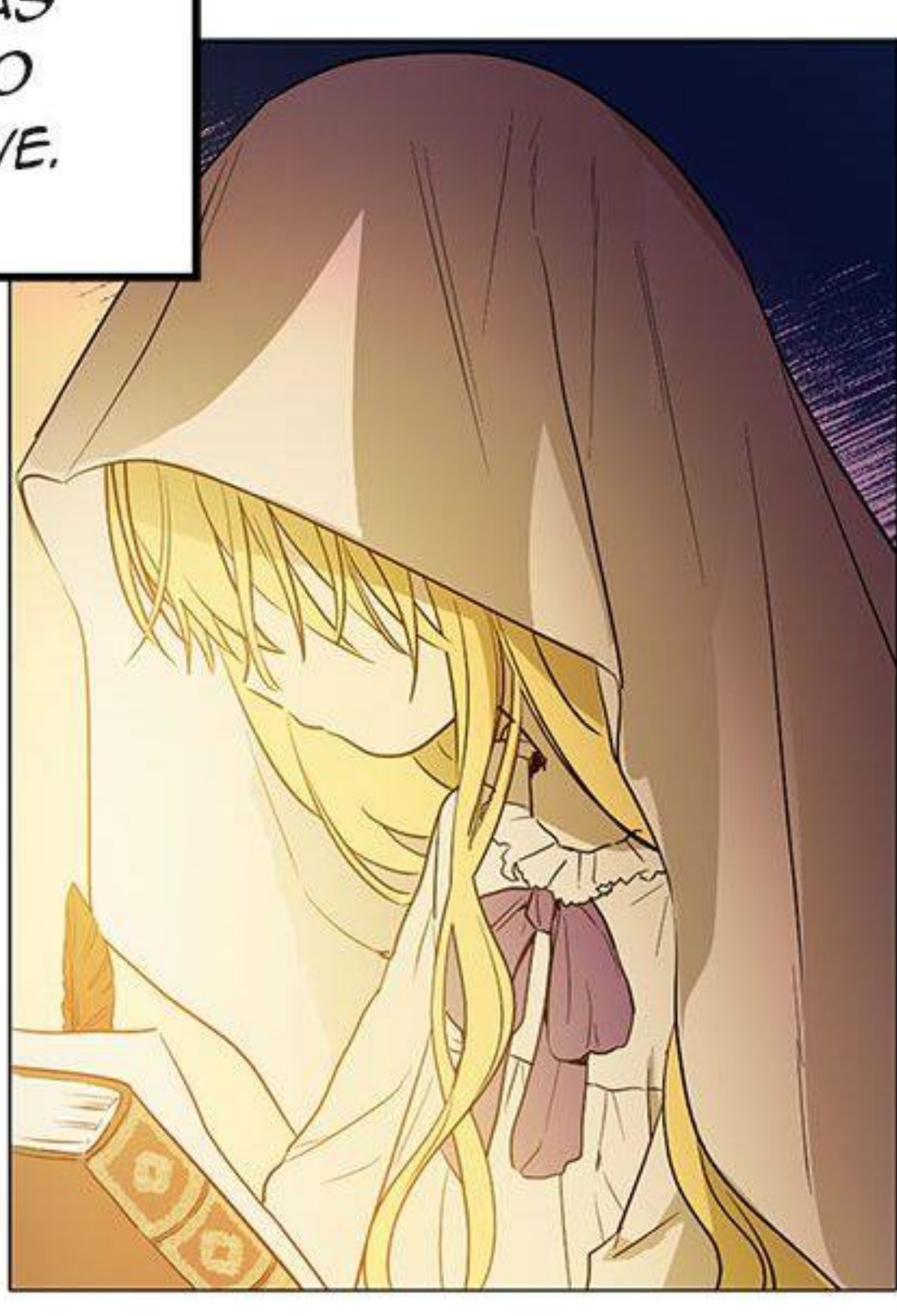
PLAN A:
NOT GETTING
NOTICED
BY CLAUDE AND
LIVING INSIDE
RUBY PALACE
UNTIL I DIE.

Scratch

~~Plan A Failed~~

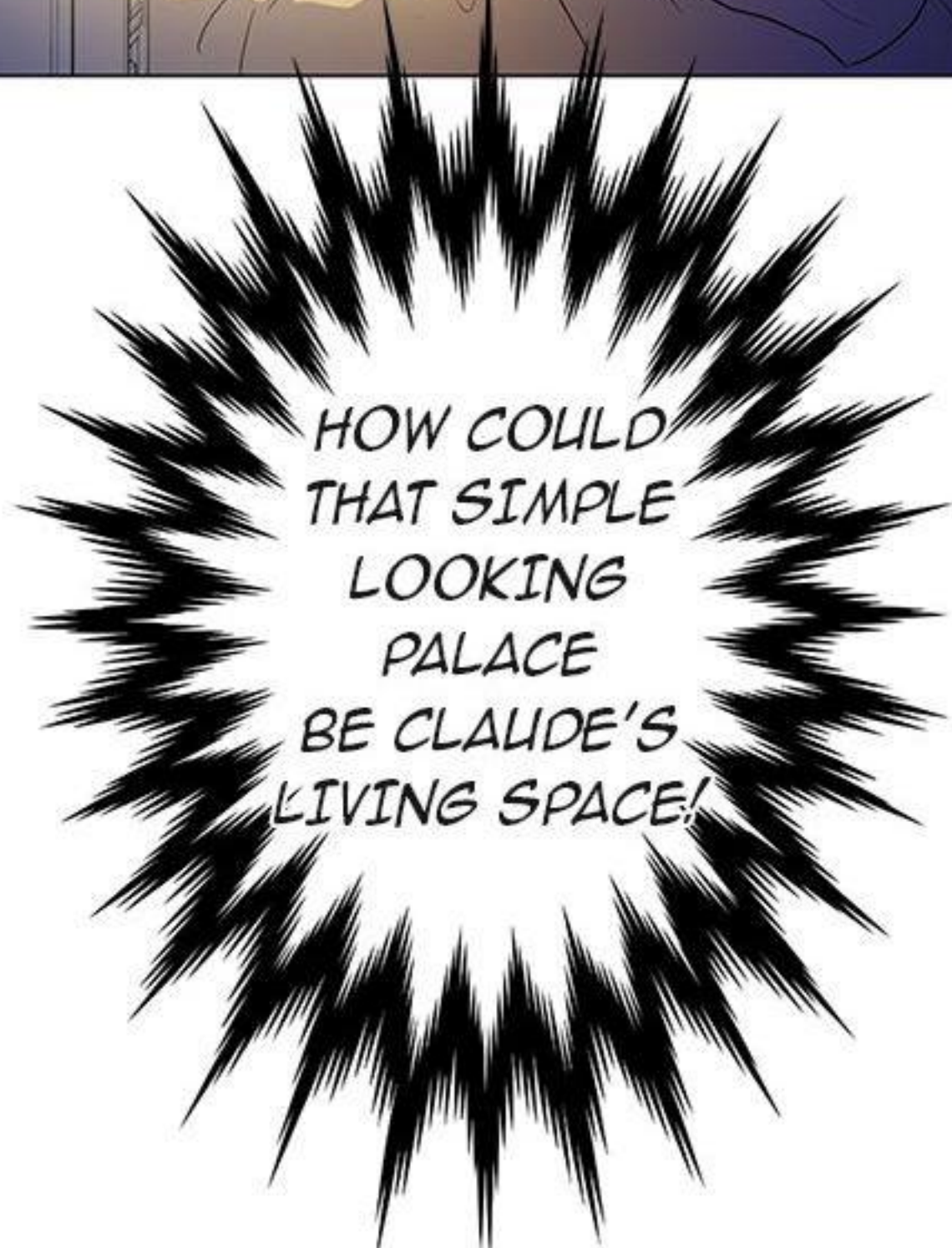
Scratch

I WAS
TOO
NAIVE.



I THOUGHT EVERYTHING
WOULD BE FINE AS LONG
AS I WAS CAREFUL.





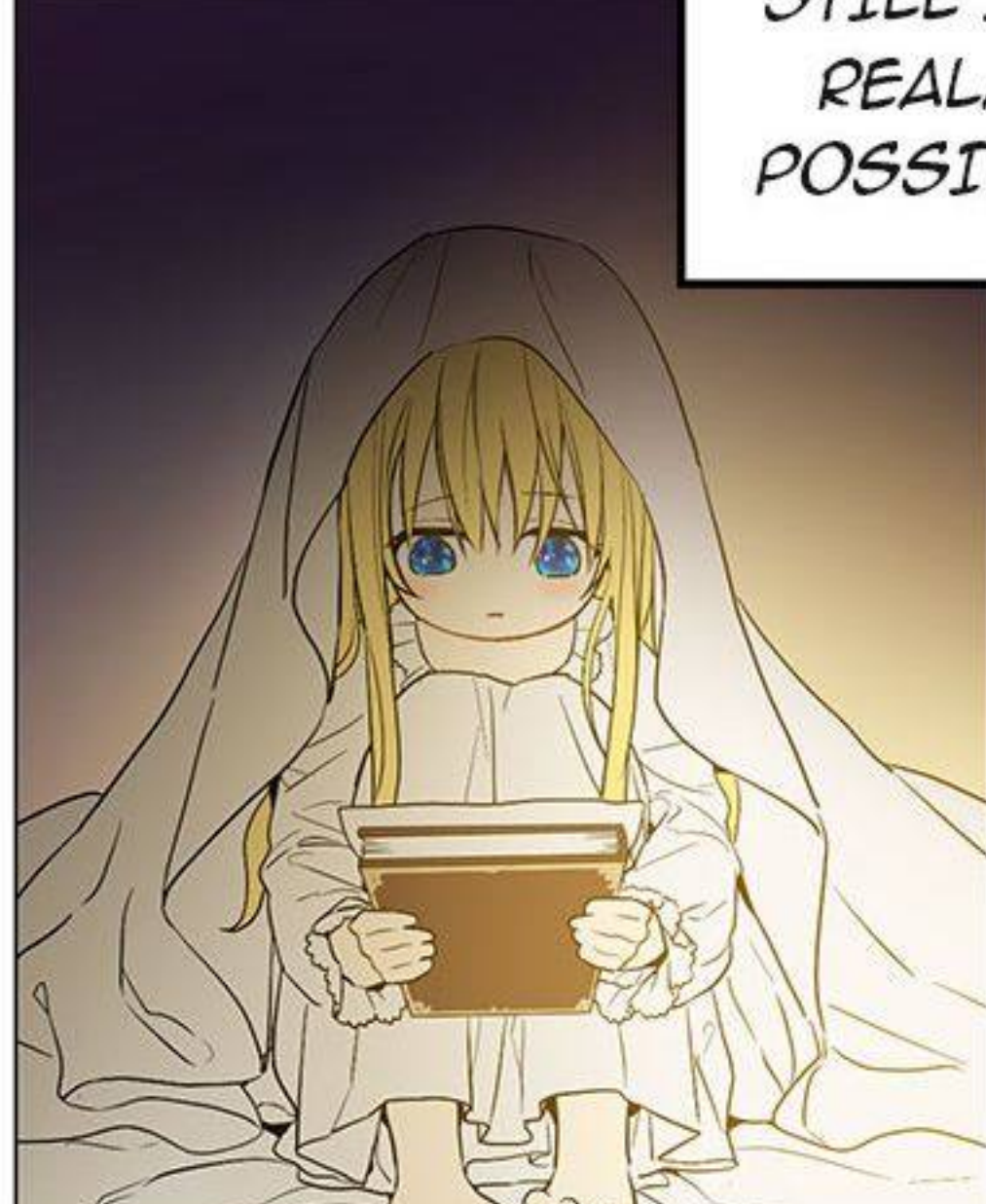
RUBY PALACE IS
SUPPOSED TO HOUSE
THE CONCUBINES NOT
THE EMPRESS. WHY IS
IT SO CLOSE TO THE
EMPEROR'S PALACE?

crumple



PLAN B:
SAVE ENOUGH
MONEY TO ESCAPE
THE PALACE BEFORE
TURNING 18.

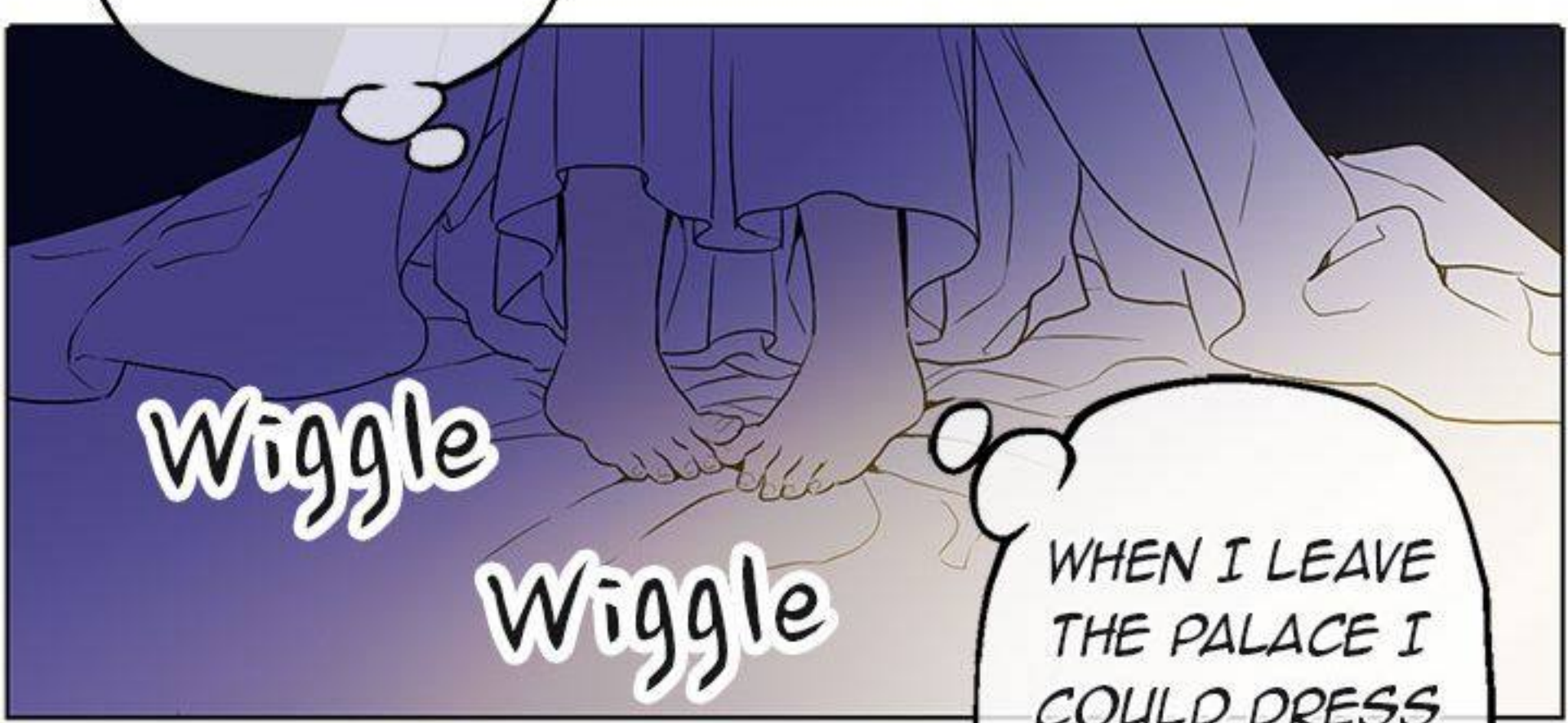
AH, THIS IS
STILL IN THE
REALM OF
POSSIBILITY.



ALTHOUGH I
ENDED UP MEETING
CLAUDE 4 YEARS
EARLIER...

HE DOESN'T SEEM TO
WANT TO KILL ME
THIS INSTANT...

SHOULD I BE
COLLECTING
MORE OF MY
PRETTIES?



WHEN I LEAVE
THE PALACE I
COULD DRESS
UP AS ONE OF
THE MAIDS AND
USE THE DOGGY
DOOR.

glance

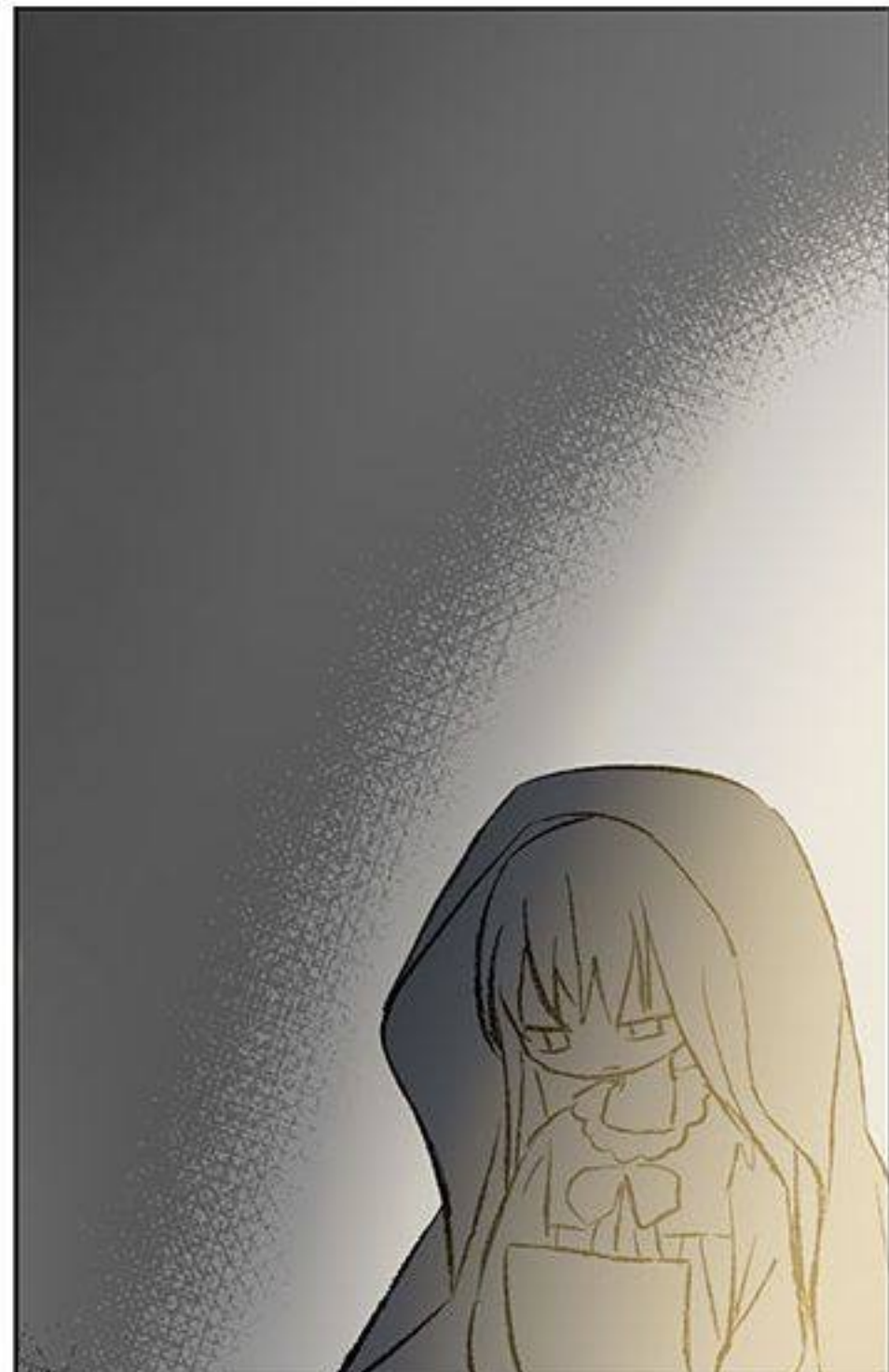




AND FINALLY...



PLAN C:
CONTINUE PLAYING CUTE
TO STEAL CLAUDE'S HEART.



I... I SUPPOSE IT'S
NOT IMPOSSIBLE?





I ALREADY KNOW WHAT
HAPPENS ACCORDING
TO THE BOOK.

MAYBE BEING
"DADDY'S
LITTLE GIRL" IS
PUSHING IT...

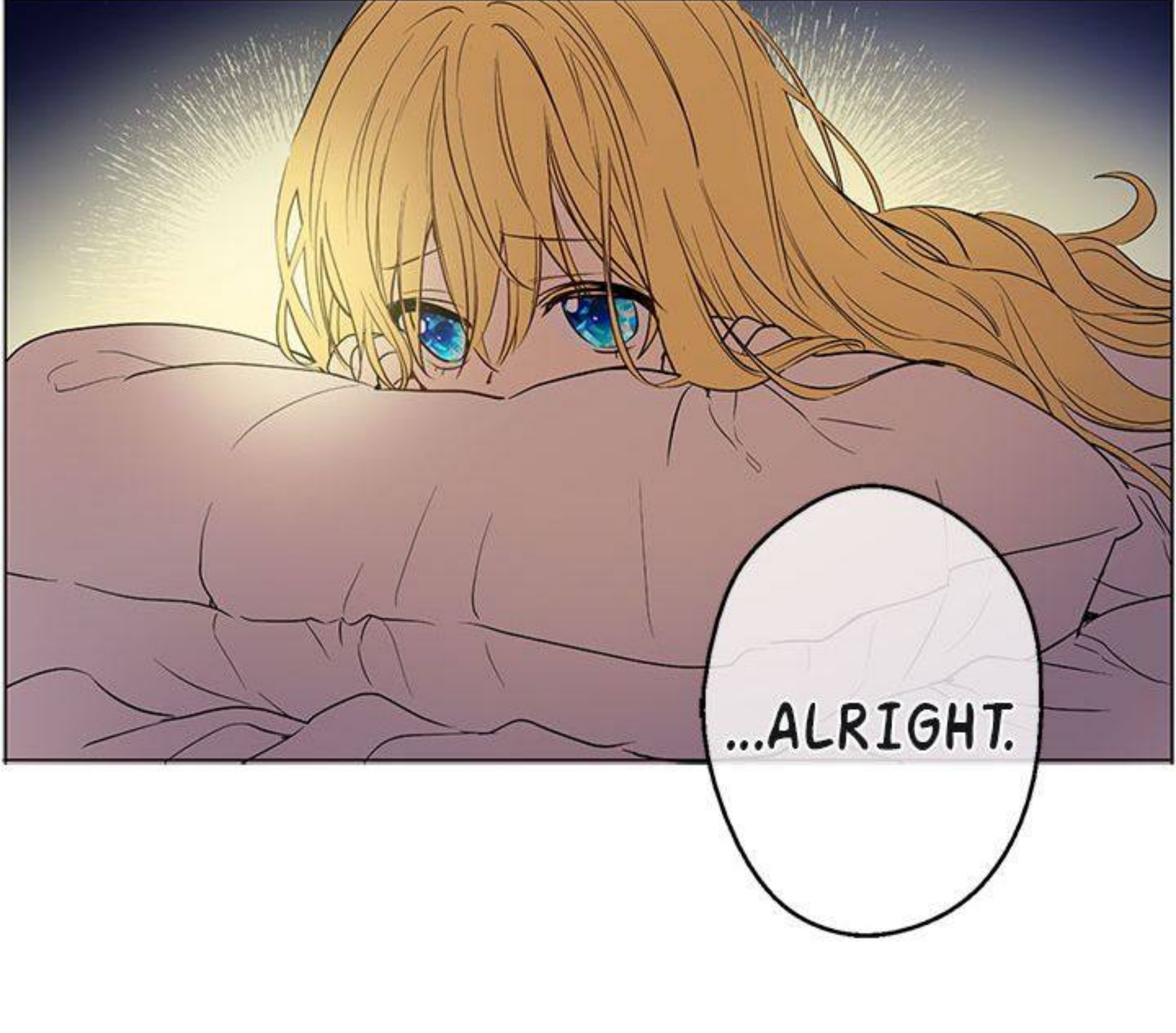
...BUT I MIGHT BE
ABLE TO GET
CLOSE ENOUGH
TO HIM SO THAT
HE WON'T WANT
TO MURDER ME.



HE DID LET ME GO
AFTER HEARING ME
BLURT OUT "PAPA."



SO SHAMEFUL!



I'M GONNA
CARRY OUT BOTH
PLAN B AND
PLAN C!

THE SHAME AND
EMBARRASSMENT I'LL
SUFFER FROM IT...

...WILL BE AN
INVESTMENT FOR
MY FUTURE.

cringe

cringe

PRINCESS,
IT'S BED
TIME.



hng

TUCK ME
IN, LILY...

To Be Continued